ABERGAVENNY MINISTRY AREA

England & Wales · Charity number 1137751

Details

Other names	PARISH OF ABERGAVENNY PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL
Status	Registered
Legal form	Other
Registered	2010-09-03
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	St Mary's Priory Tithe Barn Monk Street Abergavenny NP7 5ND
Phone	01873 858787
Email	pa@stmarys-priory.org
Website	https://abergavenny.church/

Activities

Objects: The promotion of the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical, in the parish.

Activities: The provision of regular public worship and the provision of sacred space for personal prayer and contemplation, pastoral work, including visiting the sick and bereaved, teaching Christianity through sermons and small groups. Promoting Christianity through events and services. The care of a fine collection of historic medieval monuments.

Classification

- **How:** Other Charitable Activities
- **What:** Religious Activities
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

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Geography

- **Area of benefit:** UNDEFINED. IN PRACTICE, LOCAL.
- Monmouthshire

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£395,665	£458,709	-	-
2023-12-31	£513,336	£380,805	£714,179	5
2022-12-31	£172,978	£199,562	-	-
2021-12-31	£237,979	£214,602	-	-
2020-12-31	£331,656	£217,852	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Bonita Mary Russell		2024-11-25
Caroline Anne Woollard		2011-02-12
Elizabeth Jane Crawford		2024-09-21
Margaret Rose Woodyatt		2023-01-14
Miles Jonathan Kennah		2023-01-14
Nigel Bruce Patterson		2023-01-14
Philippa Mary Lloyd Hassall		2023-01-14
ROBIN CHARLES SMITH		
Rev Lea Tracey Ryder		2021-07-11
Sharon Michelle Dickinson		2025-05-22
William Thomas		2026-04-30

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ABERGAVENNY MINISTRY AREA

England & Wales - Charity number 1137751

Accounts

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REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1137751

ABERGAVENNY MINISTRY AREA
UNAUDITED

TRUSTEES' REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

Docusign Envelope ID: 5E303BF6-10ED-4D03-97A7-AE780670C969

ABERGAVENNY MINISTRY AREA

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

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ABERGAVENNY MINISTRY AREA

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Chair	Reverend Canon John Connell (resigned 7 July 2024)
	The Reverend Lea Ryder (appointed 30 September 2024)
Co-Lay Chair	Canon Caroline Woollard
Trustees	Mrs Elizabeth Crawford
	Mr Miles Kennah
	Mrs Gaynor Parfitt (resigned 25 April 2024)
	Mr Clifford Jayne (resigned 25 April 2024)
	Mr Hywel Griffiths (resigned 25 April 2024)
	Mrs Marion Morden (resigned 25 November 2024)
	Mrs Sian Taylor
	Mr Nigel Patterson
	Mrs Angela Jones (resigned 25 April 2024)
	Mrs Margaret Woodyatt
	Mr Stephan Grabner (resigned 22 May 2025)
	Mrs Pip Hassall
	Mr Robin Smith
	Mrs Bonita Mary Russell (appointed 25 November 2024)
	Mr W D Evans (appointed 22 May 2025)
	Mrs Sharon Michelle Dickinson (appointed 22 May 2025)
Charity registration number	1137751
Registered Office	St Mary's Vicarage, Monk Street, Abergavenny NP7 5ND
Independent Examiner	J M Roderick, BSc ACA WJ James & Co Limited Bishop House 10 Wheat Street Brecon LD9 7DG

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ABERGAVENNY MINISTRY AREA

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Bankers

Lloyds Bank,
54 Cross Street,
Abergavenny,
Monmouthshire
NP7 5HB

HSBC Bank plc,
2 Frogmore Street,
Abergavenny,
NP7 5AF

Barclays Bank,
57 Frogmore Street,
Abergavenny,
NP7 5AT

Co-operative Bank,
1 Balloon Street,
Manchester,
M4 4BE

CCLA,
1 Angel Lane,
London
EC4R 3AB

Professional Advisers (Historic Buildings)

Arnold Bartosch Ltd,
1 Bath Mews,
Bath Parade,
Cheltenham,
Gloucestershire
GL53 7HL

Morgan Horowskyj,
The School Room,
Castle St,
Abergavenny
NP7 5EE

Hiraeth Architecture,
The Maltings,
East Tyndall Street,
Cardiff
CF24 5EA

Page & Dean Consultants (2017)
Old St Peters, Peterstone,
Cardiff
CF3 2TR

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ABERGAVENNY MINISTRY AREA

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

TRUSTEES REPORT

The Charity Trustees (the Trustees) of Abergavenny Ministry Area (the Trust) have pleasure in presenting their annual report together with the financial statements of the Trust for the year ended 31 December 2024

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued on 16 July 2014 and Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and Charities Act 2011 and the Trust's Constitution.

The organisational structure, administration details and governance of the charity are set out later in this report, while the activities of the church form the first part.

SUMMARY

This year saw further progress in collaborative mission and growing the mission of the Church among the seven member churches of Abergavenny Ministry Area. There was a change in leadership with the Reverend Canon John Connell leaving to take a post as Canon for Liturgy and Congregational Life at Newport Cathedral in July. Following a competitive interview, Team Vicar the Reverend Lea Ryder was appointed as Ministry Area Leader for the Abergavenny Ministry Area on 30 September 2024. Her replacement as Team Vicar, the Reverend Canon Clare Griffiths, was appointed in February 2025 and was licensed on 8 May 2025.

ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN TO FURTHER THE TRUST'S PURPOSES FOR PUBLIC BENEFIT

The Trust continued to endeavour to support both congregations and the wider community in practical terms and to enable them to live out their faith through wide-ranging activities, which can be split broadly into four categories:

- worship, prayer and pastoral care;
- mission and outreach;
- special events;
- fundraising, fellowship and hosting events.

Worship, prayer and pastoral care

The Ministry Area continued to offer a regular service pattern throughout the year, despite only having one stipendiary minister for much of it. This was achieved through the good offices of lay and retired ministers, which meant that all churches had at least one Sunday service. The St Mary's Priory Eucharist continued to be livestreamed, watched between 200 and 300 times each week.

A range of service formats was offered, including the 1662, 1984 and 2004 liturgies, Morning and Evening Prayer, and more informal family services. The use of the Welsh language was encouraged in all our churches, with Holy Trinity hosting a candlelit Plygain Service.

As well as the usual weekday and Sunday worship during the year, whether online or in-person, there were a number of special services and events, which included:

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TRUSTEES REPORT (continued)

- Monthly Open House services, aimed at people of all ages. It features worship, music, prayer, and praise and is followed by a soup lunch. This relaxed but thought-provoking service has continued to grow with themes including the Epiphany; putting on the Armour of God, which ended with the congregation parading around the church singing; Remembrance and 'Mess and Sacrifice'.
- Hosting a Monmouth Diocesan Day of Prayer in October, featuring praying through art led by St Mary's Artist in Residence Jez Thomas.
- Hosting Monmouth Diocese's Pentecost Day of Celebration for the birthday of the Church.
- Hosting the Mothers' Union Deanery Festival in April.
- Celebrating Love & Relationships at a special Evensong.
- Walking the Way of the Cross through Holy Week, with services every evening, including Holy Eucharist, Tenebrae, a Seder meal, washing of feet, and the joyful Easter Vigil where the pascal candles of all our churches were blessed and lit from the Holy Fire.
- Hymns of Praise service at Christchurch, North Street, to celebrate worship through music.
- Celebrating Christmas at all our Churches with services of Nine Lessons and Carols and Christingle services at St Mary's Priory Church and Christchurch, Govilon.
- Offering a 'Blue Christmas' service for people for whom the festive season is a difficult time.

In addition to our regular services, we continued to enable our community to celebrate and thank God in the milestones of their journey through life; 17 baptisms, 16 weddings and 33 funerals.

The number recorded on the MA Electoral roll on December 31, 2024, was 290.

Mission and outreach work

Examples of the churches' mission and outreach included:

- Supporting Abergavenny Food Bank throughout the year and especially during the Harvest season, with collections and donations at our services.
- Holding assembles in one of our local primary schools and developing contacts in all other schools in the MA, although the latter was help up by only having one stipendiary priest.
- Holding services at one of our local care homes.
- Members of Mothers' Union continuing to volunteer at a contact centre for children suffering family break-up, including providing Christmas gifts; running a project to collect good quality clothes for prisoners in Usk & Prescoed; and taking part in the Behind Closed Doors and Summer of Hope campaigns.
- Collecting coats, warm clothing and hand-knitted blankets for Operation Orphan, which benefit young children in various parts of the world .
- Collecting Christmas parcels of toiletries and small gifts for 'looked after' older teenagers and young adults who are living on their own.
- Holding coffee mornings, soup lunches and bingo, providing fellowship for people in our communities.
- Caring for God's creation, including creating Remembrance flower beds at Christchurch, Govilon, and starting the process to restore the Abbots Garden at St Mary's Priory Church. Work on sustainability resulted in Christian environment charity A Rocha bronze awards being granted to Christchurch, North Street, and Holy Trinity, and a silver award to Christchurch, Govilon.
- Holding a Quiet Fireworks event at Christchurch, Govilon, well attended by villagers who don't normally come to church.
- Members of the ministry area co

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TRUSTEES REPORT (continued)

- Taking part in Churches Unlocked with some of the churches holding special open events.
- Continuing to be involved with other charities, including Abergavenny in Need; the Rachel Herbert Almshouses Trust; and the 7Corners project in Abergavenny, which aims to provide a safe place for young people to meet, and which is also financially supported by one of our Churches.
- Supporting the Rukungiri Project in Uganda by sponsoring a child's education and donating money to the project's general fund.
- Maintaining our church halls to provide community space.
- Supporting young people overseas through Compassion.
- Continuing our online presence, with a new website – Abergavenny.church -- with the main St Mary's Priory Eucharist continuing to be livestreamed and our Facebook account keeping people up to date with events.
- Members of the MA taking part in the Abergavenny Churches Together Walk of Witness on Good Friday.
- Members of the MA taking part in a Walk of Witness on Good Friday along part of the Monmouthshire & Brecon Canal.
- Holding a Christmas Card competition with a local school, with the winning designs printed with details of the MA's Christmas services and distributed via the congregations and at special events.
- Hosting Christingle/Christmas events for three of our town schools, St John Ambulance and Tenovus at St Mary's Priory Church.
- Hosting Easter, Harvest and Christingle services for the local primary school at St Faith's, Llanfoist.
- Hosting a harvest service at Christchurch, North Street, for the local primary school.
- Staging a Noel with Neighbours Carol Service for people living around Holy Trinity Church.
- Members of the Ministry Area continued to be encouraged to think about and tackle climate change, in however small a way, through articles in the *Four Churches' Magazine,* which was published 11 times during the year. The magazine, which is distributed widely, also tackled social justice and kept subscribers up-to-date with diocesan and provincial Church in Wales matters.
- Painting railings and benches in a square near to Holy Trinity Church and then holding a barbeque for the neighbourhood.

On the wider Church in Wales stage, the Reverend Canon John Connell, Jenny Lloyd, Chris Cotterill, Gaynor Parfitt, and Caroline Woollard continued to serve on the Governing Body of the Church in Wales. The Reverend John Connell and Caroline Woollard also served on other Provincial committees.

Music, bells and visitors

The work of St Mary's Priory continued to be greatly enhanced by St Mary's Priory Choir, under the musical directorship of Tim Pratt. Recruitment and training of choristers remained an integral part of the mission of the church. The Choir was Choir in Residence at Durham Cathedral in August and performed a devotional concert on Good Friday.

Church bells continued to be rung at some of our churches on Sundays and special occasions as well as by visiting bands at St Mary's Priory. Marianne Elliott was appointed Tower Captain at St Mary's with a mission to reinstate training evenings to grow the work of bellringing – bells being often described as the largest musical instruments in churches.

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TRUSTEES REPORT (continued)

The number of visitors to St Mary's continued to increase, with the unique Jesse figure and the Jesse stained glass window two of the main attractions. Our stewards continued to make people welcome and to facilitate both heritage visits and those who wishing to pray.

SPECIAL ACTIVITIES

Fellowship, Fundraising and Hosting Events, which included but was not limited to:

- Hosting the BBC for a live broadcast of *Newsnight on Tour*.
- Staging a General Election hustings at St Mary's Priory Church.
- Christchurch, North Street, hall being used as a polling station.
- Coffee after services at five of our seven Churches.
- Concerts by the Gwent Bach Society, the Unicorn Singers to celebrate Petertide, and the Phoenix Singers.
- Food Festival organisation again using the Priory and Tithe Barn Courtyards in September.
- Church volunteers providing refreshments during the Food Festival, providing a quiet space within St Mary's Priory on an otherwise very busy weekend in town.
- Hosting Abergavenny Pride in July.
- Holding Christmas Fayres at Christchurch, Govilon, and St Mary's Priory.
- Renting out our various church halls to a wide range of organisations for both social and training events, including art exhibitions, Alzheimer's meetings, AODDS, dog training, Community Kitchen, Tai Chi, yoga, Papillon Art Group for vulnerable adults, and a number of community choirs.

Reference and administration details

Abergavenny Ministry Area, now co-terminus with the Deanery of Abergavenny, is in the Diocese of Monmouth in the Church in Wales. There are seven churches in the Ministry Area:

- Christchurch, Abergavenny
- Christchurch, Govilon
- Holy Trinity, Abergavenny
- St Faith's, Llanfoist
- St Helen's, Llanellen
- St Mary's Priory, Abergavenny
- St Peter's, Llanwenarth Citra

Incumbent and ministers

The Reverend Canon John Connell continued to serve as Rector and Area Dean (until July 2024) and the Reverend Lea Ryder as Vicar (until appointed as Rector and Area Dean in September 2024).

The worship in the parish was made possible through the on-going contribution of our Licensed Lay Ministers Gaynor Parfitt, Clifford Jayne and Hywel Griffiths ; retired ministers the Reverend Malcolm Lane, the Reverend Jan Delaney, the Reverend Francis Buxton, the Reverend Andrew Willie, the Reverend Canon Stephen James and the Venerable Ian Rees. The Reverend Ashley Davies served as curate from his ordination in June, until he moved to a difference ministry area in October.

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TRUSTEES REPORT (continued)

OBJECTS AND ACTIVITIES

We review our aims, objectives, and activities each year, looking at what we have achieved and the outcomes of our work in the previous twelve months. The review looks at the success of each key activity and benefits of activities in a wide variety of cultural areas. The review also helps us ensure our aims, objectives and activities remained focused on our stated objective.

When reviewing our aims and objectives and in planning and considering our activities for the year, the Trustees, sitting as the Ministry Area Council (MAC), have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and, in particular, the specific guidance on charities for the advancement of religion.

The objective of the Charity is promoting in the ecclesiastical Ministry Area the whole mission of the Church. Encouraging and facilitating the practice of the Christian Faith by the Churches includes the following:

- Conducting regular Christian worship in all seven Churches.
- Marriages, funerals and baptisms.
- The provision and maintenance of the fabric of all seven Churches and their associated buildings.
- Opening St Mary's Priory daily for the public to enter and benefit from personal spiritual contemplation and to be able to view the medieval monuments and learn about the Benedictine foundation of the Church and its place in the history of Christianity and of Abergavenny.
- Opening St Peter's daily during the summer, when it is particularly visited by walkers.
- Opening other churches in the MA for visitors when asked.
- The maintenance of Christian burial places.
- Promoting the study of Christian teaching, practices and Scriptures, through Lent and Advent study groups.
- The provision of means and encouragement to promote fellowship within the membership of the Churches and the wider community, including various fundraising events such as Race Nights, Hymns of Praise, Harvest and Epiphany Lunches.

In addition to the above, Christian devotional acts and outreach work are carried out including:

- Visiting the sick.
- Administering the Sacraments to those unable to attend regular acts of worship, and to the sick and dying.
- Supporting pastoral work. A training course for Lay Pastoral Assistants took place in October and November, with practical training following.
- Fostering ecumenical links between differing Christian denominations.
- Supporting the work of other charities through, among others, the Mothers' Union, the Bridge to Cross Trust (7Corners) and the Rachel Herbert Trust.

The work of the Trust and its churches is governed by safeguarding policies of the Church in Wales; responsible adults are required to have DBS checks and the Trustees have appointed a safeguarding co-ordinator who liaises with the Provincial Safeguarding Officer if necessary. Having completed Modules A & B of the Church in Wales Safeguarding training, the majority of Trustees have now completed Module C.

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TRUSTEES REPORT (continued)

Further achievements in the year

Monies were raised by freewill offertory and by donations. These were used to support the work and administration of the Churches and wider mission. Volunteers have donated their time to help at each act of worship to support the clergy, welcomed people into services, stewarded the Churches, worked in the gardens and graveyards, arranged flowers, and many other vital activities, without which the churches could not survive.

The churches will continue with acts of worship and pastoral care during 2025 and will continue actively to try to increase the Electoral Roll, through our mission work in the community.

PLANS FOR THE FUTURE

The Trustees have the following plans for 2025 and beyond:

- To expand the Trust's work in schools through the appointment of a schools Pioneer minister, supported by the Mission and Outreach team. This appointment has been delayed due to unforeseen circumstances, but it is hoped the post will be filled during the first half of 2025.
- To encourage and train lay ministers through formal and informal training courses and mentoring.
- To run a Stewardship course, to encourage financial giving and discipleship.
- To continue working towards sustainability through the Christian environment charity A Rocha.
- To ensure safeguarding is promoted throughout the churches and DBS checks are updated as necessary.
- To streamline the governance and management of St Mary's Priory.
- To encourage members of the congregation to serve on Diocesan and Provincial bodies.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

CONSTITUTION

Abergavenny Ministry Area is part of the Diocese of Monmouth within the Church in Wales. The Church in Wales is a Province within the Anglican Communion and, as such, exists to advance the Christian Religion through world-wide mission. The object of the Ministry Area Council is to ensure that the life and work of the Church within the Parish helps to fulfil that mission, both locally and more widely.

The Representative Body of the Church in Wales (RB) holds the land and property of the Church in Wales, including all the MA's Churches and other church buildings, churchyards and gardens of rest, and their contents. The Representative Body is an exempt Charity and was set up under Section 13(2) of the Welsh Churches Act 1914. It acts on behalf of the Province in paying the stipends of the full-time clergy, and administers the Church in Wales scheme of covenanted and gift aid giving, recovering tax on behalf of the parishes.

Organisational Structure

The Trustees are responsible inter-alia for promoting the mission of the Church, the budget and all expenditure thereunder, the care and maintenance of the fabric of the Churches and associated buildings and of the graveyards and gardens of remembrance, and for action on any other matter referred to it in accordance with the constitution. The MAC is also the normal channel of communication between the parishioners and the Bishop of the diocese. All members of the MAC are volunteers, apart from the stipendiary ministers.

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TRUSTEES REPORT (continued)

In addition to the election of members, the People's MA Warden is elected at the annual Vestry meeting and the Rector appoints the Rector's MA Warden at the same meeting. Thereafter, both MA Wardens have the same role. New representatives are told of their responsibilities and of the issues facing the Churches by existing representatives, and receive such additional training as required. Other Officers, including the Co-lay Chair, Secretary, Treasurer and Gift Aid Treasurer are appointed at the first meeting of the MAC after the Vestry Meeting.

Each individual church is served by a local church committee with two local wardens. As indicated, members of the MAC and the Churches also serve as representatives on the Deanery and Diocesan Conferences and the Governing Body of the Church in Wales, the Electoral College and the Provincial Discernment Panel. The MAC is de factor Abergavenny Deanery. The Ministry Area us an active member of Abergavenny Churches Together and volunteers help run mission events in Abergavenny, including activities for Fair Trade Fortnight, Easter and Christmas.

The Churches are run entirely by volunteers as the clergy are remunerated by another charity from the Ministry Share payments made by all the Churches in the Diocese. Without the work of these volunteers the Churches would not function.

As of December 2024, the Charity employed five people (1.8 full-time equivalent).

Committee structure

The Trustees met nine times during the year, with the Standing Committee (Rector, Treasurer and MA Wardens) meeting a couple of weeks beforehand. Other committees including the mission & outreach, finance and communications groups met at regular intervals and reported back to the MAC. Some delegated decisions were taken by the Standing Committee in addition to those taken by the MAC at meetings or via email.

ST MARY'S PRIORY TRUSTEES

The Priory Trust was founded by a Deed of Indenture dated 24 December 1925, under the oversight of the then Parochial Church Council to operate and administer certain lands and buildings associated with St Mary's Church ("The Priory Properties"). Although the properties have changed over 99 years the Trustees have continued to discharge their responsibilities including, in recent years, the development and management of commercial activities in the Priory Centre, Tithe Barn and other facilities. The Deed provided that any surplus generated by the Trustees is to be used for the benefit of St Mary's Priory.

The Priory Trust reports to the MAC and the financial activities of the Priory Trust, including the ownership of certain freehold properties, are incorporated into the Charity Accounts. Any surplus generated continues to be used for the benefit of St Mary's Priory.

The income received from the house sale reported in our 2023 Report was used to cover the costs of the first of the major building schemes long planned to maintain the integrity of the fabric of St Mary's Church (see 'Fabric'), and also contributed to covering, in part, the running costs of the Church. The balance of the funds remains in Deposit Accounts, and the Fixed Rate Bond in which £200,000 is invested has been renewed for a further 12 months.

Since the closure of the Food Hall, the Trustees have struggled to achieve an appropriate financial return from the Tithe Barn despite the use and hire of parts of the building on both regular and occasional bases by a number of organisations..

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TRUSTEES REPORT (continued)

However, early in 2024 the Trustees were approached by one of the weekly users (then known as 'Crafting 4 Cancer') with a view to increasing significantly their use of the facilities in return for an appropriate increased consideration. The revised arrangements have operated from May 2024 and are continuing. The group, now the 'Tithe Barn Wellbeing Community Cafe CIC', have reopened the Food Hall five days each week and also offer a range of meetings and counselling services for users. From the Trustees' perspective the development has brought on-going levels of activity in a hitherto underutilised facility, as well as an increase in their regular income.

POLICIES

- Complaints handling
- Conflicting interests
- Investment
- Paying staff
- Risk management
- Health & Safety, including lone working and working at height
- Safeguarding vulnerable beneficiaries
- Volunteer management
- Internal charity financial controls policy and procedures
- Safeguarding policy and procedures
- Financial reserves policy and procedures
- Serious incident reporting policy and procedures
- Internal risk management policy and procedures
- Bullying and harassment policy and procedures
- Social media policy and procedures
- First Aid, including action to be taken when someone collapses in church

RISK REVIEW

The Trustees continue to review major risks to which the Charity is exposed and systems have been established to mitigate those risks. The risks facing the Charity include the state of repair of the Churches and the financial requirements to meet its stated activities, including payment of its Annual Parish Share, bearing in mind the fall in the numbers of regular worshippers and the reduction in regular giving. The structure of the Churches is continually monitored by the Trustees and the Church's professional advisers and the finances are controlled by careful budgeting and encouragement and appeals to the worshippers and visitors.

The Trustees continued to develop an evacuation plan in the event of a major incident. This plan will include the safe removal of both people and major artefacts.

There have been no serious incidents or other matters relating to this charity over the previous financial year that we should have brought to the attention of the Charity Commissioners but have not.

GOING CONCERN

Taking account of the Charity's assets, the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the Charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. For this reason, they continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements. Further details regarding the adoption of the going concern basis can be found in the Accounting Policies.

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TRUSTEES REPORT (continued)

PUBLIC BENEFIT

In planning the Charities activities for the 2024 year we kept in mind the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit at our regular trustees' meetings.

FABRIC

As well as ongoing general maintenance on all churches, the following work was carried out:

- Christchurch, Abergavenny: Painting the interior of Christchurch Community Hall, in the curtilage of the church. Commissioning a survey of dry/wet rot in the hall.
- St Faith's, Llanfoist: Repairs to the vestry roof
- Holy Trinity, Abergavenny: Porch roofs repaired. Contrasting nosing added on step up to the altar. Main boiler in the church repaired. Repairs to the organ.
- St Peter's, Llanwenarth Citra: Restoration of the organ. Hall reroofed with improving insulation and renewed guttering.
- St Mary's Priory, Abergavenny: The work to stabilise the cracks in the North Transept Turret staircase, along with extensive re-pointing, both internally and externally, was completed during April and May at a total cost of just under £60,000, of which some £9,000 of VAT was recovered through the Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme. Attention then switched to a scheme to repair the south west boundary wall where severe deterioration in the integrity of the construction has resulted in the adjacent gateway between the Prince of Wales Courtyard and the Church forecourt being closed off for safety reasons. The specification was completed prior to going out to tender.

INDUCTION AND TRAINING OF TRUSTEES

Trustee meetings routinely start with a celebration of the Eucharist which draws the Trustees together in the work of the Ministry Area. The Trustees have undertaken various development days and training together, including safeguarding, lay pastoral ministry and team building. Trustees are briefed on their roles and responsibilities on appointment and undergo refresher training through online resources from the Charity Commission.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

The Trust continues to operate on a going concern basis since the formation of the Ministry Area in January. All the 7 churches and Priory Trustees retained their treasurer (local treasurer) and maintained their accounts reporting to a central Ministry Area Finance and Property Committee headed up by a newly appointed Ministry Area Treasurer. The operation and financial thresholds are defined by the MAC with a guidance policy.

All the financial management uses Data Development's MyFundAccounting.Online supported by the diocese. This enabled consolidation of all the management and reporting to be produced in compliance with the Charity Commission.

A central fund was created to allow for payment of all centralised payments, including ministry share and insurance.

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TRUSTEES REPORT (continued)

To enable the continuing transition from individual churches to Ministry Area, the local treasurers continued to manage their entity. Where items were paid centrally, the charges were proportional to their previous year's Parish Share. Most churches managed to meet all their normal commitments through direct voluntary contributions, weddings, funerals and fundraising. Holy Trinity and St Mary's was the exception to this, having both the highest proportion to pay and still suffering from the impacts of the Covid Pandemic.

The direct voluntary contributions received during Services, excluding tax reclaimed through Gift Aid, amounted to £92,341.

Other general income, including that generated from fundraising activities, was £106,864 £17,062 was received by way of grants from external agencies to the various churches.

The level of general expenditure, excluding exceptional items, amounted to £394,285.

Expenditure on exceptional items during the year amounted to £60,988 which was for the repair of the North Transept Stairs in St Mary's and the Organ Refurbishment at St Peter's. The net assets of the Charity at 31 December 2024 amounted to £651,135 a reduction of 63,044 compared to 31 December 2023. This reduction was the Charity having to continue using (and reducing) its financial reserves to cover its ongoing expenditure.

During the year the Charity continued to face the challenge of managing its cash flow particularly because of the reduced levels of income and the diminishing level of financial reserves within which it operates, contrary to its policy but reflecting current realities.

RESERVES POLICY

The Trustees recognise the need to hold reserves to ensure funding is available to provide continuing mission should income levels fall. Reserves are also required to meet the future maintenance programme for the Churches and Church buildings.

A minimum level of reserves also needs to be retained to ensure the Trust can meet its legal commitments should the Charity be unable to continue due to a lack of a sustainable income stream. The Officers of the Trust have established a policy whereby the unrestricted funds not designated for specific use by the Trust or invested in tangible fixed assets, ie the free reserves held by the Trust, should ideally be between three and six months of the resources expended in general funds.

The Charity is dependent on donations, grants and investment income. The economic climate remains uncertain and, while interest rates are starting to improve, they are still not where they once were, both of which factors are likely to have an on-going negative impact on future income streams.

INVESTMENT POLICY AND PERFORMANCE

There is an ongoing review of our investments as there are different approaches across the 7 churches. Where some churches hold reserves in the CCLA COIF Charities Investment Fund and others due to historically low rates of interest, achieve the best possible rate from our bankers commensurate with maintaining the capability of rapid access to the funds in the event of a call on them.

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STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

The trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England & Wales requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that period.

In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP 2019 (FRS 102);
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the trust deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Approved by order of the Trustee Board on 17/10/2025 and signed on their behalf by

Signed by:
Lea Ryder
4D9086BD5D8744A...

Chair of Trustees

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ABERGAVENNY MINISTRY AREA

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE ABERGAVENNY MINISTRY AREA ('the Charity')

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the period ended 31 December 2024 which are set out on pages 15 to 25.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

Since the company's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the 2011 Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of Institute of chartered accountants, which is one of the listed bodies.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Report) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

J M Roderick BSc ACA
WJ James & Co.
Chartered Accountant
Bishop House
10 Wheat Street
Brecon
Powys
LD3 7DG

17 October 2025

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ABERGAVENNY MINISTRY AREA
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

	Note	Unrestricted Funds 2024 £	Designated Funds 2024 £	Restricted Funds 2024 £	Total Funds 2024 £	Total Funds 2023 £
INCOME FROM:						
Donations and legacies	2	155,533	295	7,547	163,375	176,734
Charitable activities	3	40,893	8,294	-	49,187	25,395
Other activities	4	105,594	1,270	-	106,864	120,040
Investments	5	371	-	70	441	2,358
Other income	6	40,085	-	35,713	75,798	186,309
TOTAL INCOME		342,476	9,859	43,330	395,665	510,836
EXPENDITURE ON:						
Raising funds		3,436	-	-	3,436	6,769
Charitable activities	7	427,316	9,582	18,375	455,273	371,536
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		430,752	9,582	18,375	458,709	378,305
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)		(88,276)	277	24,955	(63,044)	132,531
Transfers between funds	17	13,210	(23,674)	10,464	-	-
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		(75,066)	(23,397)	35,419	(63,044)	132,531
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS						
Total funds brought forward		638,356	45,120	30,703	714,179	581,648
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		563,290	21,723	66,122	651,135	714,179

The Statement of Financial Activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

All of the activities of the charity are classed as continuing

The notes on pages 15 to 25 form part of these financial statements

ABERGAVENNY MINISTRY AREA
BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2024

	Note		2024 £		2023 £
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible fixed assets	10		101,752		101,752
Investments	11		1,989		1,960
			103,741		103,712
CURRENT ASSETS					
Stock		10,000		10,000	
Debtors	12	3,681		4,916	
Cash at bank and in hand		533,745		623,325	
		547,426		638,241	
Creditors : Amounts falling due within one year	13	(32)		(27,774)	
NET CURRENT ASSETS			547,394		610,467
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES			651,135		714,179
TOTAL NET ASSETS			651,135		714,179
CHARITY FUNDS					
Unrestricted funds	14		585,013		683,476
Restricted funds	14		66,122		30,703
			651,135		714,179

The above balance sheets reflects the amalgamated financial postion of all churches within the newly formed Abergavenny Ministry Area, and therefore no comparative figures have been included as it would be impracticable to restate these amounts.

These financial statements were approved by the trustees and authorised for issue by the trustees on 17/10/ 2025 and are signed on its behalf by:

Signed by:
8A88F01D2FFF49C...

Trustee

Signed by:
DABCD37FABB447B...

Trustee

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1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Statement of compliance
The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the second edition of the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice issued in October 2019, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011.

Basis of preparation
The Abergavenny Ministry Area meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. The accounts (financial statements) have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant note(s) to these accounts.

Exemption from preparing a cash flow statement
The charity opted to early adopt Bulletin 1 published on 2 February 2016 and have therefore not included a cash flow statement in these financial statements.

Going concern
The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis.

The trustees assess whether the use of going concern is appropriate i.e. whether there are any material uncertainties related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the ability of the charity to continue as a going concern. The trustees make this assessment in respect of a period of one year from the date of approval of the financial statements.

Incoming resources
Voluntary income including donations, gifts, legacies and grants that provide core funding or are of a general nature is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the income, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured with sufficient reliability.

Donations and legacies are recognised on a receivable basis when receipt is probable and the amount can be reliably measured.

Donated services or facilities, which comprise of donated services, are included in income at a valuation which is an estimate of the financial cost borne by the donor where such a cost is quantifiable and measurable. No income is recognised where there is no financial cost borne by a third party.

Grants are recognised when the charity has an entitlement to the funds and any conditions linked to the grants have been met. Where performance conditions are attached to the grant and are yet to be met, the income is recognised as a liability and included on the balance sheet as deferred income to be released.

Government grants are recognised based on the accrual model and are measured at the fair value of the asset received or receivable. Grants are classified as relating either to revenue or to assets. Grants relating to revenue are recognised in income over the period in which the related costs are recognised. Grants relating to assets are recognised over the expected useful life of the asset. Where part of a grant relating to an asset is deferred, it is recognised as deferred income.

Gift Aid relief on eligible donations is recognised on an accruals basis at the same point as the original donation.

Investment income is recognised at the time of being received.

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1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES *(CONTINUED)*

Expenditure
All expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to that expenditure, it is probable settlement is required and the amount can be measured reliably. All costs are allocated to the applicable expenditure heading that aggregate similar costs to that category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated on a basis consistent with the use of resources, with central staff costs allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges allocated on the portion of the asset's use. Other support costs are allocated based on the spread of staff costs.

Raising funds
These are costs incurred in attracting voluntary income, the management of investments and those incurred in trading activities that raise funds.

Charitable activities
Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.

Governance costs
These include the costs attributable to the charity's compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements, including audit, strategic management and trustees' meetings and reimbursed expenses.

Taxation
The charity is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 of the Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes. Accordingly, the charity is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by Chapter 3 Part 11 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992, to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively to charitable purposes.

Tangible fixed assets and depreciation
Tangible fixed assets are initially recognised at cost. After recognition, under the cost model, tangible fixed assets are measured at cost less accumulated depreciation and any accumulated impairment losses. All costs incurred to bring a tangible fixed asset into its intended working condition should be included in the measurement of cost.

Depreciation is charged so as to allocate the cost of tangible fixed assets less their residual value over their estimated

Depreciation is provided on the following basis:

Freehold property - 0%

Stock
Stock is recognised at the lower of cost and net realisable value.

Trade debtors
Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents comprise cash on hand and call deposits, and other short-term highly liquid investments that are readily convertible to a known amount of cash and are subject to an insignificant risk of change in value.

Trade creditors
Creditors and provisions are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES *(CONTINUED)*

Fund structure
Unrestricted income funds are general funds that are available for use at the trustees' discretion in furtherance of the objectives of the charity.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds set aside for specific purposes at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted income funds are those donated for use in a particular area or for specific purposes, the use of which is restricted to that area or purpose.

Financial instruments
Classification
Financial assets and financial liabilities are recognised when the charity becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial liabilities and equity instruments are classified according to the substance of the contractual arrangements entered into. An equity instrument is any contract that evidences a residual interest in the assets of the charity after deducting all of its liabilities.

Recognition and measurement

All financial assets and liabilities are initially measured at transaction price (including transaction costs), except for those financial assets classified as at fair value through profit or loss, which are initially measured at fair value (which is normally the transaction price excluding transaction costs), unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction. If an arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, the financial asset or financial liability is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest for a similar debt instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are only offset in the statement of financial position when, and only when there exists a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and the charity intends either to settle on a net basis, or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

Financial assets are derecognised when and only when a) the contractual rights to the cash flows from the financial asset expire or are settled, b) the charity transfers to another party substantially all of the risks and rewards of ownership of the financial asset, or c) the charity, despite having retained some, but not all, significant risks and rewards of ownership, has transferred control of the asset to another party.

Financial liabilities are derecognised only when the obligation specified in the contract is discharged, cancelled or expires.

2 INCOME FROM DONATIONS AND LEGACIES

	Unrestricted Funds 2024	Designated Funds 2024	Restricted Funds 2024	Total Funds 2024	Total Funds 2023
	£	£	£	£	£
Planned giving (direct debit & SO)	76,076	-	-	76,076	70,596
Loose Collections	16,265	-	-	16,265	20,699
Donations	23,493	295	-	23,788	31,359
For Mission	1,051	-	-	1,051	2,780
Tax Reclaimed - Gift Aid	20,548	-	-	20,548	15,427
Tax Refunds - GASDS	2,478	-	-	2,478	2,366
Legacies	-	-	6,107	6,107	10,040
Grants	15,622	-	1,440	17,062	23,467
	155,533	295	7,547	163,375	176,734

During the year grants were received from the following:

	Unrestricted Funds 2024	Designated Funds 2024	Restricted Funds 2024	Total Funds 2024	Total Funds 2023
	£	£	£	£	£
Monmouth DBF - Energy Grant	-	-	-	-	269
Church hall grant	2,000	-	-	2,000	1,550
Govilon - grant from Welsh Churches fund	1,000	-	-	1,000	2,000
Community council grant for churchyard	165	-	-	165	165
Diocesan Church Fabric Grant - chancel roof	-	-	-	-	5,000
100 Club assistance with roof	-	-	-	-	2,000
Llanfoist Fawr Communtiy Council	-	-	-	-	500
Mon Dioc	-	-	-	-	118
MCC grant - organ repairs	-	-	-	-	2,000
Mon Dio Grant	200	-	-	200	1,150
Lloyds - Banking - Benefact Trust Grant	-	-	-	-	2,100
BACS - Monmouth DBF - Energy grant	-	-	-	-	5,209
Llanfoist Fawr Com LFCC Grant	-	-	-	-	500
Monmouth Diocese	-	-	-	-	865
Monmouth Diocese	-	-	1,440	1,440	41
Garfield Weston	3,000	-	-	3,000	-
Churches unlocked	400	-	-	400	-
VAT Reclaim North Transept	8,857	-	-	8,857	-
	15,622	-	1,440	17,062	23,467

3 INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted Funds 2024	Designated Funds 2024	Restricted Funds 2024	Total Funds 2024	Total Funds 2023
	£	£	£	£	£
Fees	22,326	-	-	22,326	25,395
Fundraising	18,567	8,294	-	26,861	-
	40,893	8,294	-	49,187	25,395

ABERGAVENNY MINISTRY AREA
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

4 OTHER ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted Funds 2024	Designated Funds 2024	Restricted Funds 2024	Total Funds 2024	Total Funds 2023
	£	£	£	£	£
Fundraising	-	-	-	-	37,559
Hall Rental Income	16,634	-	-	16,634	57,221
Sundry	9,643	-	-	9,643	25,260
Magazine/other publcation sales	1,733	1,270	-	3,003	-
Catering & Bar Receipts	16,479	-	-	16,479	-
Equipment Receipts	978	-	-	978	-
Priory Centre	30,240	-	-	30,240	-
Music Room	950	-	-	950	-
Tithe Barn	14,734	-	-	14,734	-
Car Park	11,011	-	-	11,011	-
Courtyard	3,192	-	-	3,192	-
	105,594	1,270	-	106,864	120,040

5 INVESTMENT INCOME

	Unrestricted Funds 2024	Designated Funds 2024	Restricted Funds 2024	Total Funds 2024	Total Funds 2023
	£	£	£	£	£
Investment income	371	-	70	441	2,358
	371	-	70	441	2,358

6 OTHER INCOME

	Unrestricted Funds 2024	Designated Funds 2024	Restricted Funds 2024	Total Funds 2024	Total Funds 2023
	£	£	£	£	£
Bank interest	12,588	-	-	12,588	157,385
Sale of fixed assets	400	-	-	400	-
Insurance claims	9,543	-	-	9,543	28,924
Loans received	3,000	-	-	3,000	-
Funds introduced	9,277	-	35,713	44,990	-
MA/Parish Share Rebate	5,277	-	-	5,277	-
	40,085	-	35,713	75,798	186,309

ABERGAVENNY MINISTRY AREA
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

7 ANALYSIS OF EXPENDITURE BY ACTIVITIES

	Wages & Salaries 2024	Activities Undertaken Directly 2024	Total Funds 2024	Total Funds 2023
	£	£	£	£
Charitable activities	54,953	400,320	455,273	371,536
	54,953	400,320	455,273	371,536

a. Analysis of direct costs

	Total Funds 2024	Total Funds 2023
	£	£
Parish share	76,987	117,807
Parochial expenses of clerics	4,649	325
Maintenance of services	4,921	3,589
General parish expenses	52,158	16,069
Maintenance of churches	58,549	62,805
Maintenance of church hall	44,826	23,314
Maintenance of other property	62,818	59,678
Mission and grant parish	2,039	2,029
Mission and grant home/world	4,670	6,600
Professional fees	840	3,040
Parsonage expenses	1,872	1,799
MA/LMA central costs	-	65
Major building repairs and renovations	60,988	14,358
Purchase of asstes for church purposes	12,773	1,465
Loan repayments	3,000	2,500
Trading expenses	9,230	9,248
	400,320	324,691

b. Staff costs

	Total Funds 2024	Total Funds 2023
	£	£
Wages and salaries	54,210	46,335
Pension contributions	743	510
	54,953	46,845

The average number of persons employed by Abergavenny Ministry Area during the year are as follows: -

	2024 No	2023 No
Employees	5	3

No employee received remuneration amounting to more than £60,000 in the year.

8 TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND EXPENSES

During the year, no trustees received any remuneration of other benefits .

During the year ended 31 December 2024, expenses totalling £2,843 (2003: £Nil) were reimbursed or paid directly to Trustees.

9 TAXATION

The charity is exempt from corporation tax on its charitable activities.

10 FIXED ASSETS

	FREEHOLD PROPERTY £
COST	
Balance brought forward at 1 January 2024	101,752
Disposals	-
Balance carried forward at 31 December 2024	101,752

It is not considered necessary to charge depreciation on the cost of the Freehold Property owned.

11 INVESTMENTS

	2024 £	2023 £
Market Value at 31 December 2023	1,960	1,960
Additions/(Disposals)	-	-
Unrealised Gains/(losses)	29	-
Market Value at 31 December 2024	1,989	1,960

12 DEBTORS

	2024 £	2023 £
DUE WITH ONE YEAR		
Other debtors	3,861	4,916
	3,861	4,916

13 CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITH ONE YEAR

	2024 £	2023 £
Other creditors	32	27,774
	32	27,774

14 MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - CURRENT YEAR

	Balance at 31 December 2023 £	Incoming resources £	Outgoing resources £	Transfers in/Out £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Balance at 31 December 2024 £
Restricted funds						
Christ Church, Abergavenny						
Legacy and Church Improvement	5,589	70	-	-	-	5,659
Christchurch Maintenance	1,500	-	(504)	-	-	996
Christchurch Hall	1,580	-	(4,340)	2,760	-	-
St Helen, Llanellen						
Llanellen Churchyard Fund	6,956	-	-	-	-	6,956
Christ Church, Govilon						
Govilon Maintenance	(6,306)	6,107	-	199	-	-
Govilon Peace Garden	1,640	-	(482)	-	-	1,158
Govilion Toilet	10,000	-	-	-	-	10,000
St Peter, Llanwenarth						
Fabric Fund	-	35,713		-	-	35,713
Organ Fund	2,000	-	(10,000)	8,000	-	-
St Mary's Priory						
North Transept Staircase Repairs	2,100	-	(3,049)	949	-	-
Holy Trinity, Abergavenny						
HT Building Fund	5,644	1,440	-	(1,444)	-	5,640
	30,703	43,330	(18,375)	10,464	-	66,122
Unrestricted funds						
General funds	638,356	342,476	(430,752)	13,210	-	563,290
Designated funds						
Christ Church, Govilon						
Govilon Maintenance	7,000	-	-	-	-	7,000
Govilon Peace Garden	-	-	(43)	43	-	-
Govilion Toilet	10,000	-	-	-	-	10,000
St Mary's Priory						
Choir Fund	3,613	7,419	(8,876)	-	-	2,156
Mothers Union	132	1,170	(536)	-	-	766
St Mary's Legacies - Legacies/Fabric/organ/Holywell Funds	23,717	-	-	(23,717)	-	-
Ministry Area						
Magazine	658	1,270	(127)	-	-	1,801
	683,476	352,335	(440,334)	(10,464)	-	585,013
Total funds	714,179	395,665	(458,709)	-	-	651,135

Restricted funds have been included as advised by the indiviudal church treasurers.

15 ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

	Unrestricted Funds 2024	Restricted funds 2024
	£	£
Tangible fixed assets	101,752	-
Fixed asset investments	1,989	-
Current assets		
Stock	10,000	-
Debtors	3,681	-
Cash at bank and in hand	467,623	66,122
Creditors due with one year	(32)	-
TOTAL	585,013	66,122

16 RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

There were no related party transactions during the year.

17 TRANSFERS BETWEEN FUNDS

The transfers between funds represent movement between designated and unrestricted funds during the year, and transfers from unrestricted to restircted funds to clear any deficit balances arising at the year end.

ABERGAVENNY MINISTRY AREA

England & Wales - Charity number 1137751

Accounts

Docusign Envelope ID: CEFA2E40-E5AF-4744-93A1-3A18BB51EAF7

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1137751

ABERGAVENNY MINISTRY AREA
UNAUDITED

TRUSTEES' REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

Docusign Envelope ID: CEFA2E40-E5AF-4744-93A1-3A18BB51EAF7

ABERGAVENNY MINISTRY AREA

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

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ABERGAVENNY MINISTRY AREA

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Chair	Reverend Canon John Connell (resigned 7 July 2024)
Co-Lay Chair	Canon Caroline Woollard
Trustees	The Reverend Lea Ryder
	Mrs Elizabeth Crawford
	Mr Miles Kennah
	Mrs Gaynor Parfitt (resigned 25 April 2024)
	Mr Clifford Jayne (resigned 25 April 2024)
	Mr Hywel Griffiths (resigned 25 April 2024)
	Mrs Marion Morden
	Mrs Sian Taylor
	Mr Nigel Patterson
	Mrs Angela Jones (resigned 25 April 2024)
	Mrs Margaret Woodyatt
	Mr Stephan Grabner
	Mrs Pip Hassall
	Mr Robin Smith
Charity registration number	1137751
Registered Office	St Mary's Vicarage, Monk Street, Abergavenny NP7 5ND
Independent Examiner	J M Roderick, BSc ACA WJ James & Co Limited Bishop House 10 Wheat Street Brecon Powys LD9 7DG

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ABERGAVENNY MINISTRY AREA

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Bankers

Lloyds Bank,
54 Cross Street,
Abergavenny,
Monmouthshire
NP7 5HB

HSBC Bank plc,
2 Frogmore Street,
Abergavenny,
NP7 5AF

Barclays Bank,
57 Frogmore Street,
Abergavenny,
NP7 5AT

Co-operative Bank,
1 Balloon Street,
Manchester,
M4 4BE

CCLA,
1 Angel Lane,
London
EC4R 3AB

Professional Advisers (Historic Buildings)

Arnold Bartosch Ltd,
1 Bath Mews,
Bath Parade,
Cheltenham,
Gloucestershire
GL53 7HL

Morgan Horowskyj,
The School Room,
Castle St,
Abergavenny
NP7 5EE

Hiraeth Architecture,
The Maltings,
East Tyndall Street,
Cardiff
CF24 5EA

Page & Dean Consultants (2017)
Old St Peters, Peterstone,
Cardiff
CF3 2TR

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ABERGAVENNY MINISTRY AREA

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

TRUSTEES REPORT

The Charity Trustees (the Trustees) of Abergavenny Ministry Area (the Trust) have pleasure in presenting their annual report together with the financial statements of the Trust for the year ended 31 December 2023

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued on 16 July 2014 and Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and Charities Act 2011 and the Trust's Constitution.

The organisational structure, administration details and governance of the charity are set out later in this report, while the activities of the church form the first part.

SUMMARY

Abergavenny Ministry Area was created on January 1, 2023, and formally commissioned on January 8, amalgamating seven churches in the Abergavenny and Govilon groups into one ministry area and charity (the Trust), under the leadership of Ministry Area Leader the Reverend Canon John Connell and Vicar the Reverend Lea Ryder. The PCCs of these churches were replaced by the Ministry Area Council (MAC), members of which are the Trustees of the Charity. The year has seen the further consolidation of the Ministry Area with much achieved in creating a sense of collaborative working and in growing the mission of the Church, while continuing to further the Trust's purposes for public benefit.

ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN TO FURTHER THE TRUST'S PURPOSES FOR PUBLIC BENEFIT

The Trust continued to endeavour to support both congregations and the wider community in practical terms and to enable them to live out their faith through wide-ranging activities, which can be split broadly into four categories:

- worship, prayer and pastoral care;
- mission and outreach;
- special events;
- fundraising, fellowship and hosting events.

Worship, prayer and pastoral care

The service pattern changed slightly throughout the year, with Sunday morning service times consolidated so that they started at either 8am, 9.30am, or 11am to enable the stipendiary clergy to attend each church more regularly. The St Mary's Priory Eucharist continued to be livestreamed. A range of service formats was offered, including the 1662, 1984 and 2004 liturgies, Morning and Evening Prayer, and weekly Praying the Rosary.

As well as the usual weekday and Sunday worship during the year, whether online or in-person, there were a number of special services and events, which included:

- The creation of the Open House service, which takes place monthly and which is aimed at people of all ages. It features worship, music, prayer, and praise and is followed by a soup lunch. This relaxed but thought-provoking service has grown steadily over the months with themes including Harvest, how Church is the people not the buildings, Remembrance and Advent.

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TRUSTEES REPORT (continued)

- Hosting two Monmouth Diocesan Days of Prayer in February and November.
- Hosting the Mothers' Union Deanery Festival in April.
- A Festival Eucharist and Evensong to celebrate the coronation of King Charles III in May.
- Celebrating Christmas at all our Churches with services of Nine Lessons and Carols and Christingles.

In addition to our regular services, we continued to enable our community to celebrate and thank God in the milestones of their journey through life; 17 baptisms, 16 weddings and 41 funerals, plus 14 funerals conducted by MA clergy at crematoria.

The number recorded on the MA Electoral roll on December 31, 2022, was 297.

Mission and outreach work

Examples of the churches' mission and outreach included:

- Supporting Abergavenny Food Bank throughout the year and especially during the Harvest season, with collections and donations at our services.
- Holding assembles in one of our local primary schools and developing contacts in all other schools in the MA.
- Holding services at one of our local care homes.
- Hosting a performance of *INSPIRED...The Word into action* by Riding Lights Theatre Company, the only performance of this show in Wales during that tour.
- Members of Mothers' Union continuing to volunteer at a contact centre for children suffering family break-up, including providing Christmas gifts.
- Collecting coats and warm clothing for Operation Orphan.
- Collecting good quality men's clothing for the prison shop in Usk.
- Collecting Christmas parcels of toiletries and small gifts for 'looked after' older teenagers and young adults who are living on their own.
- Holding coffee mornings, soup lunches and bingo, providing fellowship for people in our communities.
- Members of the church continuing to be involved with other charities, including Abergavenny in Need; the Rachel Herbert Almshouses Trust; and the 7Corners project in Abergavenny, which aims to provide a safe place for young people to meet, and which is also financially supported by one of our Churches.
- Supporting a school/orphanage in Rukungiri, Uganda, and sponsoring a child's education.
- Maintaining our church halls to provide community space.
- Supporting young people overseas through Compassion.
- Continuing our online presence, with the main St Mary's Priory Eucharist continuing to be livestreamed and our Facebook and Twitter accounts keeping people up to date with what was going on at the Priory.
- Members of the MA taking part in the Abergavenny Churches Together Walk of Witness on Good Friday.
- Members of the MA taking part in a Walk of Witness on Good Friday along part of the Monmouthshire & Brecon Canal.

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TRUSTEES REPORT (continued)

- Holding a Christmas Card competition with two local schools, with the winning designs printed with details of the MA's Christmas services and distributed via the congregations and at special events.

- Hosting Christingle/Christmas events for three of our primary schools and St John Ambulance.
- Christchurch, North Street, St Faith's Llanfoist and Holy Trinity achieving Bronze Awards from A Rocha UK, a Christian charity working to protect and restore the natural world and committed to equipping Christians and churches in the UK to care for the environment. Other Churches in the MA are working towards these awards.
- Members of the Ministry Area being encouraged to think about and tackle climate change, in however small a way, through articles in the *Four Churches' Magazine*, which was published 11 times during the year. The magazine, which is distributed widely, including to South Africa, also tackled social justice and kept subscribers up-to-date with Church in Wales matters.

On the wider Church in Wales stage, the Reverend Canon John Connell, Jenny Lloyd, Chris Cotterill, Gaynor Parfitt, and Caroline Woollard continued to serve on the Governing Body of the Church in Wales. The Reverend John Connell and Caroline Woollard also served on other Provincial committees.

Music, bells and visitors

The work of St Mary's Priory continued to be greatly enhanced by St Mary's Priory Choir, under the musical directorship of Tim Pratt. The Choir sang at a special Eucharist for His Majesty King Charles III's coronation. The Choir was Choir in Residence at Derby Cathedral in August.

Church bells continued to be rung on Sundays and special occasions as well as by visiting bands at St Mary's Priory.

The number of visitors to St Mary's continued to increase, with the unique Jesse figure one of the main attractions. Our stewards continued to make people welcome and to facilitate both heritage visits and those who wished to pray.

SPECIAL ACTIVITIES

Fellowship, Fundraising and Hosting Events, which included but was not limited to:

- An Evening with Archbishop Andrew John.
- Coffee after services at five of our seven Churches.
- Concerts by the Gwent Bach Society, the North American Welsh Choir, Choir for Good, Black Mountain Recorders and St Mary's Choir.
- The Food Festival organisation again using the Priory and Tithe Barn Courtyards in September.
- Church volunteers providing refreshments during the Food Festival, providing a quiet space within St Mary's Priory on an otherwise very busy weekend in town.
- Hosting Abergavenny Pride in July.

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TRUSTEES REPORT (continued)

Reference and administration details

Abergavenny Ministry Area, now co-terminus with the Deanery of Abergavenny, is in the Diocese of Monmouth in the Church in Wales. There are seven churches in the Ministry Area:

- Christchurch, Abergavenny
- Christchurch, Govilon
- Holy Trinity, Abergavenny
- St Faith's, Llanfoist
- St Helen's, Llanellen
- St Mary's Priory, Abergavenny
- St Peter's, Llanwenarth Citra

Incumbent and ministers

The Reverend Canon John Connell continued to serve as Rector and Area Dean (until July 2024) and the Reverend Lea Ryder as Vicar (until appointed as Rector and Area Dean in September 2024).

The worship in the parish was made possible through the on-going contribution of our Licensed Lay Ministers Gaynor Parfitt, Clifford Jayne and Hywel Griffiths ; retired ministers the Reverend Malcolm Lane, the Reverend Jan Delaney, the Reverend Francis Buxton, the Reverend Andrew Willie, and the Reverend Canon Stephen James.

OBJECTS AND ACTIVITIES

We review our aims, objectives, and activities each year, looking at what we have achieved and the outcomes of our work in the previous twelve months. The review looks at the success of each key activity and benefits of activities in a wide variety of cultural areas. The review also helps us ensure our aims, objectives and activities remained focused on our stated objective.

When reviewing our aims and objectives and in planning and considering our activities for the year, the Trustees, sitting as the Ministry Area Council (MAC), have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and, in particular, the specific guidance on charities for the advancement of religion.

The objective of the Charity is promoting in the ecclesiastical Ministry Area the whole mission of the Church. Encouraging and facilitating the practice of the Christian Faith by the Churches includes the following:

- Conducting regular Christian worship in all seven Churches.
- Marriages, funerals and baptisms.
- The provision and maintenance of the fabric of all seven Churches and their associated buildings.
- Opening St Mary's Priory daily for the public to enter and benefit from personal spiritual contemplation and to be able to view the medieval monuments and learn about the Benedictine foundation of the Church and its place in the history of Christianity and of Abergavenny.

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TRUSTEES REPORT (continued)

- Opening St Peter's daily during the summer, when it is particularly visited by walkers.
- The maintenance of Christian burial places.
- Promoting the study of Christian teaching, practices and Scriptures.
- The provision of means and encouragement to promote fellowship within the membership of the Churches and the wider community.
- In addition to the above, Christian devotional acts and outreach work are carried out including:
- Visiting the sick.
- Administering the Sacraments to those unable to attend regular acts of worship, and to the sick and dying.
- Supporting pastoral work.
- Fostering ecumenical links between differing Christian denominations.
- Supporting the work of other charities through, among others, the Mothers' Union, the Bridge to Cross Trust (7Corners) and the Rachel Herbert Trust.

The work of the Trust and its churches is governed by safeguarding policies of the Church in Wales; responsible adults are required to have DBS checks and the Trustees have appointed a safeguarding co-ordinator who liaises with the Provincial Safeguarding Officer if necessary. All Trustees have completed Modules A and B of the Church in Wales Safeguarding training.

Further achievements in the year

Monies were raised by freewill offertory and by donations. These were used to support the work and administration of the Churches and wider mission. Volunteers have donated their time to help at each act of worship to support the clergy, welcomed people into services, stewarded the Churches, worked in the gardens and graveyards, arranged flowers, and many other vital activities, without which the churches could not survive.

The churches will continue with acts of worship and pastoral care during 2024 and will continue actively to try to increase the Electoral Roll, through our mission work in the community.

PLANS FOR THE FUTURE

The Trustees have the following plans for 2024 and beyond:

- To expand the Trust's work in schools through the appointment of a Schools Pioneer Minister, supported by the Mission and Outreach team.
- To encourage and train lay ministers through formal and informal training courses and mentoring.
- To run a Stewardship course, to encourage financial giving and discipleship.
- To continue working towards sustainability through the Christian environment charity A Rocha.
- To ensure all Trustees complete Safeguarding Module C and that safeguarding is promoted throughout the churches.
- To ensure that DBS checks are completed for all who work with children and vulnerable adults.
- To streamline the governance and management of St Mary's Priory.

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TRUSTEES REPORT (continued)

- To encourage members of the congregations to serve on Diocesan and Provincial bodies.
- To develop a new website for the Ministry Area and to continue improving both internal and external communications.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

CONSTITUTION

Abergavenny Ministry Area is part of the Diocese of Monmouth within the Church in Wales. The Church in Wales is a Province within the Anglican Communion and, as such, exists to advance the Christian Religion through world-wide mission. The object of the Ministry Area Council is to ensure that the life and work of the Church within the Parish helps to fulfil that mission, both locally and more widely.

The Representative Body of the Church in Wales (RB) holds the land and property of the Church in Wales, including all the MA's Churches and other church buildings, churchyards and gardens of rest, and their contents. The Representative Body is an exempt Charity and was set up under Section 13(2) of the Welsh Churches Act 1914. It acts on behalf of the Province in paying the stipends of the full-time clergy, and administers the Church in Wales scheme of covenanted and gift aid giving, recovering tax on behalf of the parishes.

Organisational Structure

The Trustees are responsible inter-alia for promoting the mission of the Church, the budget and all expenditure thereunder, the care and maintenance of the fabric of the Churches and associated buildings and of the graveyards and gardens of remembrance, and for action on any other matter referred to it in accordance with the constitution. The MAC is also the normal channel of communication between the parishioners and the Bishop of the diocese. All members of the MAC are volunteers, apart from the stipendiary ministers.

In addition to the election of members, the People's MA Warden is elected at the annual Vestry meeting and the Rector appoints the Rector's MA Warden at the same meeting. Thereafter, both MA Wardens have the same role. New representatives are told of their responsibilities and of the issues facing the Churches by existing representatives, and receive such additional training as required. Other Officers, including the Co-lay Chair, Secretary, Treasurer and Gift Aid Treasurer are appointed at the first meeting of the MAC after the Vestry Meeting.

Each individual church is served by a local church committee with two local wardens. As indicated, members of the MAC and the Churches also serve as representatives on the Deanery and Diocesan Conferences and the Governing Body of the Church in Wales, the Electoral College and the Provincial Discernment Panel. The Ministry Area is an active member of Abergavenny Churches Together and volunteers help run mission events in Abergavenny, including activities for Fair Trade Fortnight, Easter and Christmas.

The Churches are run entirely by volunteers as the clergy are remunerated by another charity from the Ministry Share payments made by all the Churches in the Diocese. Without the work of these volunteers the Churches would not function.

As of December 2023 the Charity employed five people (1.8 full-time equivalent).

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TRUSTEES REPORT (continued)

Committee structure

The Trustees met seven times during the year, with the Standing Committee meeting a couple of weeks beforehand. Other committees including the mission, finance and communications groups met at regular intervals and reported back to the MAC. Some delegated decisions were taken by the Standing Committee (Rector, Treasurer and MA Wardens) in addition to those taken by the MAC at meetings or via email.

ST MARY'S PRIORY TRUSTEES

The Priory Trust was founded by a Deed of Indenture dated 24 December 1925, under the oversight of the then Parochial Church Council to operate and administer certain lands and buildings associated with St Mary's Church ("The Priory Properties"). Although the properties have changed over 99 years the Trustees have continued to discharge their responsibilities including, in recent years, the development and management of commercial activities in the Priory Centre, Tithe Barn and other facilities. The Deed provided that any surplus generated by the Trustees is to be used for the benefit of St Mary's Priory.

The Priory Trust reports to the MAC and the financial activities of the Priory Trust, including the ownership of certain freehold properties, are incorporated into the Charity Accounts. Any surplus generated continues to be used for the benefit of St Mary's Priory.

One significant event in 2023 was the sale of No 4 Holywell Close. This property was originally purchased by the Trustees – in conjunction with the Representative Body of the Church in Wales as Custodian Trustees – on behalf of the then-PCC as the residence for a Curate. Subsequently the house was used as the base for the Benedictine Holywell Community that was founded by the Parish and operated successfully for a number of years. However, the evolving strategy for the Ministry Area indicated the house was now surplus and it was sold on the open market during 2023.

In accordance with the Deed, and as noted elsewhere in this Report, some of the income accruing from the sale will be used to fund the significant fabric repair projects that will be undertaken on the Priory site during 2024 and 2025. In the meantime, the funds are invested in Deposit Accounts, including £200K in a longer-term Fixed Rate Bond.

POLICIES

- Complaints handling
- Conflicting interests
- Investment
- Paying staff
- Risk management
- Health & Safety, including lone working
- Safeguarding vulnerable beneficiaries
- Volunteer management
- Internal charity financial controls policy and procedures
- Safeguarding policy and procedures
- Financial reserves policy and procedures
- Serious incident reporting policy and procedures
- Internal risk management policy and procedures

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TRUSTEES REPORT (continued)

- Bullying and harassment policy and procedures
- Social media policy and procedures

RISK REVIEW

The Trustees have conducted its own review of the major risks to which the Charity is exposed and systems have been established to mitigate those risks. The risks facing the Charity include the state of repair of the Churches and the financial requirements to meet its stated activities, including payment of its Annual Parish Share, bearing in mind the fall in the numbers of regular worshippers and the reduction in regular giving. The structure of the Churches is continually monitored by the Trustees and the Church's professional advisers and the finances are controlled by careful budgeting and encouragement and appeals to the worshippers and visitors.

The Trustees continued to develop an evacuation plan in the event of a major incident. This plan will include the safe removal of both people and major artefacts.
There have been no serious incidents or other matters relating to this charity over the previous financial year that we should have brought to the attention of the Charity Commissioners but have not.

GOING CONCERN

Taking account of the Charity's assets, the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the Charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. For this reason, they continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements. Further details regarding the adoption of the going concern basis can be found in the Accounting Policies.

PUBLIC BENEFIT

In planning the Charities activities for the 2023 year we kept in mind the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit at our regular trustees' meetings.

FABRIC

As well as ongoing general maintenance on all churches, the following work was carried out:

- Christchurch, Abergavenny: Replacement of three windows and painting the exterior of the church hall plus cutting of trees at the rear of the building.
- St Helen's, Llanellen: Renovation of the Vestry and parts of the church following a fire in December 2022. The church re-opened in October 2023.
- Holy Trinity, Abergavenny: Boiler replaced in church hall, the interior of which was also repainted.
- St Peter's, Llanwenarth Citra: Hearing loop and sound system installed in the church.
- Christchurch, Govilon: Repairs to church organ.

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TRUSTEES REPORT (continued)

- St Mary's Priory, Abergavenny: Reflecting the Church's continuing lower of income and the reduced availability of grants for schemes solely focussed on maintaining the integrity of the fabric no tangible progress has been made on any of the three major projects discussed in previous Reports. However, further expenditure has been incurred in connection with repairing the cracks in the walls of the turret staircase in the north east corner of the North Transept. The tender process for the work was undertaken in 2022, a contractor selected and a start date of 8 April agreed. The civil works will be funded by the St Mary's Priory Trustees.

INDUCTION AND TRAINING OF TRUSTEES

Trustee meetings routinely start with a celebration of the Eucharist which draws the Trustees together in the work of the Ministry Area. The Trustees have undertaken various development days and training together (team formation, stewardship, safeguarding, exploring lay ministry) which has enabled each Trustee to develop a good understanding about the challenges and opportunities they all share. Trustees are briefed on their roles and responsibilities on appointment and undergo refresher training through online resources from the Charity Commission.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

The Trust continues to operate on a going concern basis since the formation of the Ministry Area in January. All the 7 churches and Priory Trustees retained their treasurer (local treasurer) and maintained their accounts reporting to a central Ministry Area Finance and Property Committee headed up by a newly appointed Ministry Area Treasurer. The operation and financial thresholds are defined by the MAC with a guidance policy.

All the financial management was transferred on to Data Development's MyFundAccounting.Online supported by the diocese. This enabled consolidation of all the management and reporting to be produced in compliance with the Charity Commission.

A central fund was created to allow for the payment of all the centralised payments, including ministry share and insurance.

To enable a smooth transition from individual churches to Ministry Area, the local treasurers continued to manage their entity. Where items were paid centrally, the charges were proportional to their previous year's Parish Share. Most churches managed to meet all their normal commitments through direct voluntary contributions, weddings, funerals and fundraising. Holy Trinity and St Mary's was the exception to this, having both the highest proportion to pay and still suffering from the impacts of the Covid Pandemic.

The direct voluntary contributions received during Services, excluding tax reclaimed through Gift Aid, amounted to £91,295.

Other general income, including that generated from fundraising activities, was £110,974

£23,467 was received by way of grants from external agencies to the various churches.

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TRUSTEES REPORT (continued)

The level of general expenditure, excluding exceptional items, amounted to £363,947.

Expenditure on exceptional items during the year amounted to £14,358 which was for the repair of the Vestry at St Helen's after a fire.

The net assets of the Charity at 31 December 2023 amounted to £714,179 including freehold properties valued at £101,752. This has reduced with the sale of 4 Holywell Close where the Charity received £157,385 from the sale of the property.

During the year the Charity continued to face the challenge of managing its cash flow particularly because of the reduced levels of income, reflecting current realities.

RESERVES POLICY

The Trustees recognise the need to hold reserves to ensure funding is available to provide continuing mission should income levels fall. Reserves are also required to meet the future maintenance programme for the Churches and Church buildings.

A minimum level of reserves also needs to be retained to ensure the Trust can meet its legal commitments should the Charity be unable to continue due to a lack of a sustainable income stream. The Officers of the Trust have established a policy whereby the unrestricted funds not designated for specific use by the Trust or invested in tangible fixed assets, ie the free reserves held by the Trust, should ideally be between three and six months of the resources expended in general funds.

The Charity is dependent on donations, grants and investment income. The economic climate remains uncertain and, while interest rates are starting to improve, they are still not where they once were, both of which factors are likely to have an on-going negative impact on future income streams.

INVESTMENT POLICY AND PERFORMANCE

There is an ongoing review of our investments as there are different approaches across the 7 churches. Where some churches hold reserves in the CCLA COIF Charities Investment Fund and others due to historically low rates of interest, achieve the best possible rate from our bankers commensurate with maintaining the capability of rapid access to the funds in the event of a call on them.

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STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

The trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England & Wales requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that period.

In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP 2019 (FRS 102);
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the trust deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Approved by order of the Trustee Board on 30 October 2024 and signed on their behalf by

Signed by:
Caroline Woollard
DABCD37FABB447B...
Chair of Trustees

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ABERGAVENNY MINISTRY AREA

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE ABERGAVENNY MINISTRY AREA ('the Charity')

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the period ended 31 December 2023 which are set out on pages 15 to 25.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

Since the company's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the 2011 Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of Institute of chartered accountants, which is one of the listed bodies.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Report) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

JMRoderick

J M Roderick BSc ACA
WJ James & Co.
Chartered Accountant
Bishop House
10 Wheat Street
Brecon
Powys
LD3 7DG

30 October 2024

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ABERGAVENNY MINISTRY AREA
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

	Note	Unrestricted Funds 2023 £	Designated Funds 2023 £	Restricted Funds 2023 £	Total Funds 2023 £
INCOME FROM:					
Donations and legacies	2	157,804	4,700	14,230	176,734
Charitable activities	3	25,395	-	-	25,395
Other trading activities	4	103,912	7,986	8,142	120,040
Investments	5	2,217	78	63	2,358
Other income	6	186,309	-	-	186,309
TOTAL INCOME		475,637	12,764	22,435	510,836
EXPENDITURE ON:					
Raising funds		6,321	448	-	6,769
Charitable activities	7	341,860	9,644	20,032	371,536
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		348,181	10,092	20,032	378,305
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)		127,455	2,672	2,403	132,531
Transfers between funds	17	(27,448)	27,448	-	-
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		100,007	30,120	2,403	132,531
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
Total funds brought forward		538,348	15,000	28,300	581,648
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		638,356	45,120	30,703	714,179

The Statement of Financial Activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

All of the activities of the charity are classed as continuing

The notes on pages 15 to 25 form part of these financial statements

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ABERGAVENNY MINISTRY AREA

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2023

	Note		2023 £
FIXED ASSETS			
Tangible fixed assets	10		101,752
Investments	11		1,960
			103,712
CURRENT ASSETS			
Stock		10,000	
Debtors	12	4,916	
Cash at bank and in hand		623,325	
		638,241	
Creditors : Amounts falling due within one year	13	(27,774)	
NET CURRENT ASSETS			610,467
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES			714,179
TOTAL NET ASSETS			714,179
CHARITY FUNDS			
Unrestricted funds	14		683,476
Restricted funds	14		30,703
			714,179

The above balance sheets reflects the amalgamated financial postion of all churches within the newly formed Abergavenny Ministry Area, and therefore no comparative figures have been included as it would be impracticable to restate these amounts.

These financial statements were approved by the trustees and authorised for issue by the trustees on 10/30/2024 2024 and are signed on its behalf by:

Signed by:
Caroline Woollard
DABCD37FABB447B...
Trustee

Signed by:
29AF400A0E284F4...
Trustee

The notes on pages 15 to 25 form part of these financial statements

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Statement of compliance
The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the second edition of the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice issued in October 2019, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011.

Basis of preparation
The Abergavenny Ministry Area meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. The accounts (financial statements) have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant note(s) to these accounts.

Exemption from preparing a cash flow statement
The charity opted to early adopt Bulletin 1 published on 2 February 2016 and have therefore not included a cash flow statement in these financial statements.

Going concern
The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis.

The trustees assess whether the use of going concern is appropriate i.e. whether there are any material uncertainties related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the ability of the charity to continue as a going concern. The trustees make this assessment in respect of a period of one year from the date of approval of the financial statements.

Incoming resources
Voluntary income including donations, gifts, legacies and grants that provide core funding or are of a general nature is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the income, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured with sufficient reliability.

Donations and legacies are recognised on a receivable basis when receipt is probable and the amount can be reliably measured.

Donated services or facilities, which comprise of donated services, are included in income at a valuation which is an estimate of the financial cost borne by the donor where such a cost is quantifiable and measurable. No income is recognised where there is no financial cost borne by a third party.

Grants are recognised when the charity has an entitlement to the funds and any conditions linked to the grants have been met. Where performance conditions are attached to the grant and are yet to be met, the income is recognised as a liability and included on the balance sheet as deferred income to be released.

Government grants are recognised based on the accrual model and are measured at the fair value of the asset received or receivable. Grants are classified as relating either to revenue or to assets. Grants relating to revenue are recognised in income over the period in which the related costs are recognised. Grants relating to assets are recognised over the expected useful life of the asset. Where part of a grant relating to an asset is deferred, it is recognised as deferred income.

Gift Aid relief on eligible donations is recognised on an accruals basis at the same point as the original donation.

Investment income is recognised at the time of being received.

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1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES *(CONTINUED)*

Expenditure
All expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to that expenditure, it is probable settlement is required and the amount can be measured reliably. All costs are allocated to the applicable expenditure heading that aggregate similar costs to that category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated on a basis consistent with the use of resources, with central staff costs allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges allocated on the portion of the asset's use. Other support costs are allocated based on the spread of staff costs.

Raising funds
These are costs incurred in attracting voluntary income, the management of investments and those incurred in trading activities that raise funds.

Charitable activities
Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.

Governance costs
These include the costs attributable to the charity's compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements, including audit, strategic management and trustees' meetings and reimbursed expenses.

Taxation
The charity is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 of the Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes. Accordingly, the charity is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by Chapter 3 Part 11 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992, to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively to charitable purposes.

Tangible fixed assets and depreciation
Tangible fixed assets are initially recognised at cost. After recognition, under the cost model, tangible fixed assets are measured at cost less accumulated depreciation and any accumulated impairment losses. All costs incurred to bring a tangible fixed asset into its intended working condition should be included in the measurement of cost.

Depreciation is charged so as to allocate the cost of tangible fixed assets less their residual value over their estimated

Depreciation is provided on the following basis:

Freehold property - 0%

Stock
Stock is recognised at the lower of cost and net realisable value.

Trade debtors
Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents comprise cash on hand and call deposits, and other short-term highly liquid investments that are readily convertible to a known amount of cash and are subject to an insignificant risk of change in value.

Trade creditors
Creditors and provisions are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES *(CONTINUED)*

Fund structure
Unrestricted income funds are general funds that are available for use at the trustees' discretion in furtherance of the objectives of the charity.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds set aside for specific purposes at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted income funds are those donated for use in a particular area or for specific purposes, the use of which is restricted to that area or purpose.

Financial instruments
Classification
Financial assets and financial liabilities are recognised when the charity becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial liabilities and equity instruments are classified according to the substance of the contractual arrangements entered into. An equity instrument is any contract that evidences a residual interest in the assets of the charity after deducting all of its liabilities.

Recognition and measurement

All financial assets and liabilities are initially measured at transaction price (including transaction costs), except for those financial assets classified as at fair value through profit or loss, which are initially measured at fair value (which is normally the transaction price excluding transaction costs), unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction. If an arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, the financial asset or financial liability is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest for a similar debt instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are only offset in the statement of financial position when, and only when there exists a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and the charity intends either to settle on a net basis, or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

Financial assets are derecognised when and only when a) the contractual rights to the cash flows from the financial asset expire or are settled, b) the charity transfers to another party substantially all of the risks and rewards of ownership of the financial asset, or c) the charity, despite having retained some, but not all, significant risks and rewards of ownership, has transferred control of the asset to another party.

Financial liabilities are derecognised only when the obligation specified in the contract is discharged, cancelled or expires.

2 INCOME FROM DONATIONS AND LEGACIES

	Unrestricted Funds 2023	Designated Funds 2023	Restricted Funds 2023	Total Funds 2023
	£	£	£	£
Planned giving (direct debit & SO)	70,596	-	-	70,596
Loose Collections	20,699	-	-	20,699
Donations	28,274	1,505	1,580	31,359
For Mission	2,735	45	-	2,780
Tax Reclaimed - Gift Aid	15,427	-	-	15,427
Tax Refunds - GASDS	2,366	-	-	2,366
Legacies	10,040	-	-	10,040
Grants	7,667	3,150	12,650	23,467
	157,804	4,700	14,230	176,734

During the year grants were received from the following:

	Unrestricted Funds 2023	Designated Funds 2023	Restricted Funds 2023	Total Funds 2023
	£	£	£	£
Monmouth DBF - Energy Grant	269	-	-	269
Church hall grant	-	-	1,550	1,550
Govilon - grant from Welsh Churches fund	-	-	2,000	2,000
Community council grant for churchyard	165	-	-	165
Diocesan Church Fabric Grant - chancel roof	-	-	5,000	5,000
100 Club assistance with roof	-	2,000	-	2,000
Llanfoist Fawr Communtiy Council	500	-	-	500
Mon Dioc	118	-	-	118
MCC grant - organ repairs	-	-	2,000	2,000
Mon Dio Grant	-	1,150	-	1,150
Lloyds - Banking - Benefact Trust Grant	-	-	2,100	2,100
BACS - Monmouth DBF - Energy grant	5,209	-	-	5,209
Llanfoist Fawr Com LFCC Grant	500	-	-	500
Monmouth Diocese	865	-	-	865
Monmouth Diocese	41	-	-	41
	7,667	3,150	12,650	23,467

3 INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted Funds 2023	Designated Funds 2023	Restricted Funds 2023	Total Funds 2023
	£	£	£	£
Fees	25,395	-	-	25,395
	25,395	-	-	25,395

4 OTHER TRADING ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted Funds 2023	Designated Funds 2023	Restricted Funds 2023	Total Funds 2023
	£	£	£	£
Fundraising	22,406	7,011	8,142	37,559
Hall Rental Income	57,221	-	-	57,221
Sundry	24,285	975	-	25,260
	103,912	7,986	8,142	120,040

5 INVESTMENT INCOME

	Unrestricted Funds 2023	Designated Funds 2023	Restricted Funds 2023	Total Funds 2023
	£	£	£	£
Investment income	2,217	78	63	2,358
	2,217	78	63	2,358

6 OTHER INCOME

	Unrestricted Funds 2023	Designated Funds 2023	Restricted Funds 2023	Total Funds 2023
	£	£	£	£
Sale of fixed assets	157,385	-	-	157,385
Insurance claims	28,924	-	-	28,924
	186,309	-	-	186,309

7 ANALYSIS OF EXPENDITURE BY ACTIVITIES

	Wages & Salaries 2023	Activities Undertaken Directly 2023	Total Funds 2023
	£	£	£
Charitable activities	46,845	324,691	371,536
	46,845	324,691	371,536

a. Analysis of direct costs

	Total Funds 2023
	£
Parish share	117,807
Parochial expenses of clerics	325
Maintenance of services	3,589
General parish expenses	16,069
Maintenance of churches	62,805
Maintenance of church hall	23,314
Maintenance of other property	59,678
Mission and grant parish	2,029
Mission and grant home/world	6,600
Professional fees	3,040
Parsonage expenses	1,799
MA/LMA central costs	65
Major building repairs and renovations	14,358
Purchase of asstes for church purposes	1,465
Loan repayments	2,500
Trading expenses	9,248
	324,691

b. Staff costs

	Total Funds 2023
	£
Wages and salaries	46,335
Pension contributions	510
	46,845

The average number of persons employed by Abergavenny Ministry Area during the year are as follows: -

	2023 No
Employees	3

No employee received remuneration amounting to more than £60,000 in the year.

8 TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND EXPENSES

During the year, no trustees received any remuneration of other benefits .

During the year ended 31 December 2023, expenses totalling £Nil were reimbursed or paid directly to Trustees.

9 TAXATION

The charity is exempt from corporation tax on its charitable activities.

10 FIXED ASSETS

	FREEHOLD PROPERTY £
COST	
Balance brought forward at 1 January 2023	362,641
Disposals	(260,889)
Balance carried forward at 31 December 2023	**101,752**

It is not considered necessary to charge depreciation on the cost of the Freehold Property owned.

11 INVESTMENTS

	2023 £
Market Value at 31 December 2022	1,960
Additions/(Disposals)	-
Unrealised Gains/(losses)	-
Market Value at 31 December 2023	1,960

12 DEBTORS

	2023 £
DUE WITH ONE YEAR	
Other debtors	4,916
	4,916

13 CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITH ONE YEAR

	2023 £
Other creditors	27,774
	27,774

14 MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - CURRENT YEAR

	Balance at 1 January 2023 £	Incoming resources £	Outgoing resources £	Transfers in/Out £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Balance at 31 December 2023 £
Restricted funds						
Christ Church, Abergavenny	8,026	3,193	(2,550)	-	-	8,669
St Helen, Llanellen	2,990	8,142	(4,176)	-	-	6,956
Christ Church, Govilon	11,640	7,000	(13,306)	-	-	5,334
St Peter, Llanwenarth	-	2,000	-	-	-	2,000
St Mary's Priory	-	2,100	-	-	-	2,100
Holy Trinity, Abergavenny	5,644	-	-	-	-	5,644
	28,300	22,435	(20,032)	-	-	30,703
Unrestricted funds						
General funds	538,348	475,637	(348,181)	(27,448)	-	638,355
Designated funds						
Christ Church, Govilon	15,000	2,000	-	-	-	17,000
Holy Trinity, Abergavenny	-	1,149	(2,594)	1,445	-	-
St Mary's Priory	-	8,900	(7,425)	25,987	-	27,462
Ministry Area	-	715	(56)	-	-	659
Christ Church, Abergavenny	-	-	(17)	17	-	-
						-
	553,348	488,401	(358,273)	-	-	683,476
Total funds	581,648	510,836	(378,305)	-	-	714,179

Restricted funds have been included as advised by the indiviudal church treasurers.

15 ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

	Unrestricted Funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £
Tangible fixed assets	101,752	-
Fixed asset investments	1,960	-
Current assets		
Stock	10,000	-
Debtors	4,916	-
Cash at bank and in hand	592,622	30,703
Creditors due with one year	(27,774)	-
TOTAL	683,476	30,703

16 RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

There were no related party transactions during the year.

17 TRANSFERS BETWEEN FUNDS

The transfers between funds represent movement between designated and unrestricted funds only during the year.

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ABERGAVENNY MINISTRY AREA

DETAILED MANAGEMENT INFORMATION

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

	Christchurch North Street	St Helen, Llanellen	Christchurch Govilon	St Peters, Llanwenarth	Holy Trinity, Abergavenny	St Mary's Priory	St Mary's Priory Trustees	St Ffwyst, Llanfoist	Ministry Area	Total 2023
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Income and endowments from:										
Donations and legacies										
Planned giving	5,343	4,131	7,991	7,228	12,780	27,146	-	5,827	150	70,596
Loose collections	3,261	1,665	2,564	887	6,092	5,550	-	680	-	20,699
Donations	6,570	1,575	910	284	634	11,804	664	8,918	-	31,359
For mission	-	-	-	-	430	2,350	-	-	-	2,780
Tax refunds - gift aid	1,876	-	1,504	2,738	2,009	7,299	-	-	-	15,427
Tax refunds - GASDS	-	-	-	-	-	2,366	-	-	-	2,366
Legacies	-	-	-	10,000	40	-	-	-	-	10,040
Grants	1,819	-	9,665	2,118	1,150	7,309	-	500	906	23,466
Income from charitable activities										
Weddings & funerals	-	-	-	-	936	-	-	-	-	936
Weddings	-	-	335	335	-	5,785	-	-	-	6,455
Funerals	-	-	4,674	3,453	-	9,142	-	735	-	18,004
Other trading activities										
Fundraising	3,137	12,270	1,542	5,946	39	13,370	-	1,257	-	37,559
Hall rental income	1,674	-	108	7,518	6,751	1,500	38,112	1,558	-	57,221
Catering and bar receipts	-	-	-	-	-	-	16,872	-	-	16,872
Sundry	168	-	-	50	-	2,633	485	-	715	4,051
Investments										
Dividends	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	259	-	259
Sale of fixed assets	-	-	-	-	-	-	157,385	-	-	157,385
Other income										
Bank interest received	63	-	30	-	-	78	1,733	196	-	2,099
Insurance claims	-	28,924	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	28,924
MA/Parish share rebate	-	-	125	-	187	-	-	90	3,936	4,338
Total income	**23,911**	**48,565**	**29,447**	**40,557**	**31,048**	**96,331**	**215,251**	**20,020**	**5,706**	**510,836**
Expenditure on:										
Raising funds	392	3,025	99	1,657	-	1,598	-	-	-	6,769
Expenditure on charitable activities										
Parish share	7,600	10,888	11,991	11,325	17,986	42,018	7,339	8,660		117,807
Parochial expenses of clerics	-	-	-	-	-	325	-	-	-	325
Professional Fees	-	-	13	-	30	2,997	-	-	-	3,040
Parsonage expenses	-	-	517	-	-	1,282	-	-	-	1,799
Maintenance of services	26	894	234	58	280	1,969	-	129		3,589
General parish expenses	171	148	1,486	149	47	14,770	660	216	921	18,569
Wages	-	-	-	-	-	27,328	19,517	-	-	46,845
MA/LMA central costs	-	-	-	-	-	65	-	-	-	65
Maintenance of churches	2,473	1,936	15,560	2,491	6,030	29,202	-	5,114	-	62,806
Maintenance of church hall	6,077	-	1,152	4,614	9,200	-	1,473	798	-	23,314
Maintenance of other property	582	4,176		507		344	53,139	930		59,678
Mission and grant parish	154	-	250	325	250	950	-	100	-	2,029
Mission and grant home/world	1,106	170	-	240	2,752	2,147	-	185	-	6,600
Major building repairs and renovatio	-	14,358	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	14,358
Purchase of asstes for church purpo	-	-	1,465	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,465
Trading expenses	-	-	-	-	-	-	9,248	-	-	9,248
										-
Total expenditure	**18,580**	**35,595**	**32,765**	**21,365**	**36,575**	**124,996**	**91,376**	**16,133**	**921**	**378,305**
Net Gains/(losses) on investments	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Net income/(expenditure) reseources before transfers	5,330	12,970	(3,318)	19,193	(5,527)	(28,664)	123,875	3,887	4,785	132,531
Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-	8,000	(8,000)	-	-	-
Net movement in funds	5,330	12,970	(3,318)	19,193	(5,527)	(20,664)	115,875	3,887	4,785	132,531
Reconciliation of funds										
Total funds brought forward	18,571	10,134	38,425	-	22,100	32,135	389,347	50,925	-	561,637
Adjustment to opening balances	-	-	-	20,011	-	-	-	-	-	20,011
Total funds carried forward	**23,902**	**23,104**	**35,107**	**39,204**	**16,573**	**11,471**	**505,222**	**54,812**	**4,785**	**714,179**

ABERGAVENNY MINISTRY AREA

England & Wales - Charity number 1137751

Accounts

PARISH OF ABERGAVENNY PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

(Renamed in November 2022 as Abergavenny Ministry Area)

Charity number: 1137751

Annual Report and Financial Statements

for the year ending December 31, 2022

Trustees' report

The trustees have pleasure in presenting their report and the financial statements of the charity for the year ending December 31, 2022. The organisational structure, administration details and governance of the charity are set out later in this report, while the activities of the church form the first part.

Summary

The focus this year was on creating the Abergavenny Ministry Area, amalgamating seven churches in the Abergavenny and Govilon groups into one ministry area and charity. This involved a great deal of time and effort from a dedicated group of clergy and laity and, by the end of the year, the PCCs of all six parishes (seven churches) had agreed to join the ministry area, which was formally created in January 2023.

The following report on the activities of St Mary's Priory and its daughter church Christchurch demonstrate what the charity has done during the year to carry out its aims and purposes for the public benefit.

Activities

The Parish continued to endeavour to enable the wider community to live out their faith through wide-ranging activities, which can be split broadly into four categories:

- worship, prayer and pastoral care;
- mission and outreach;
- special events;
- fundraising, fellowship and hosting events.

Worship, prayer and pastoral care

The service pattern remained settled throughout the year, with the Priory Eucharist continuing to be broadcast live on the internet and then available on the St Mary's Priory website. A range of service formats were offered, including the 1662, 1984 and 2004 liturgies, and weekly Praying the Rosary.

As well as the usual weekday and Sunday worship during the year, whether online or in-person, there were a number of special services and events, which included:

- Celebrating the Platinum Jubilee of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II with special services in June.
- The Rt Revd Cherry Vann conducting a service of Holy Eucharist for the Abergavenny Pride event in July.
- Requiem Masses for Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II in September, as well as opening Books of Remembrance, which were signed by hundreds of people, and provided a focal point for people of the town and beyond to pay their respects.
- Hosting the Monmouth Diocesan service for healing and wholeness in September.
- Monmouthshire Civic Service, held in September, in the presence of Councillor Laura Wright, Chair of the County Council, the Lord Lieutenant, and the High Sheriff, at which Bishop Cherry preached.



The Reverend Canon John Connell and the Rt Reverend Cherry Vann at the Abergavenny Pride event

- Celebrating Christmas at almost pre-Covid level, with Christchurch holding its Nine Lessons & Carols service, with lessons read by schoolchildren, for the first time since 2019. St Mary's held an Advent Carol Service and an Nine Lessons & Carols Service, as well as hosting school Christmas concerts. The packed annual Christingle at St Mary's was full of fun.

In addition to our regular services, we continued, when possible, to enable our community to celebrate and thank God in the milestones of their journey through life; 17 baptisms, 7 weddings and 52 funerals, although the clergy conducted many more funerals at local crematoria.

The number recorded on the Electoral roll for both churches on December 31, 2022, was 181.

Throughout the year, the Ministry Area Transition Team, through the work of its committees, discussed and agreed on matters pertaining to the creation of a new Ministry Area, to amalgamate the parishes of Llanwenarth Citra, Govilon, Llanellen, Llanfoist, and Abergavenny Holy Trinity with that of St Mary's with Christchurch. This includes key issues relating to finance, governance, and communications as well as safeguarding and the adoption of the Church in Wales' Dignity Charter. The aims and purposes of the new Abergavenny Ministry Area will be consistent with the current ones for St Mary's with Christchurch. In November, the name of the charity was amended in accordance with Charity Commission rules and permission to the Abergavenny Ministry Area to reflect the forthcoming reorganization.

Mission and outreach work

Examples of the churches' mission and outreach included:

- Members of the congregations supporting Abergavenny Food Bank throughout the year and especially during the Harvest season, with collections and donations at our services.
- Members of Mothers' Union continuing to volunteer at a contact centre for children suffering family break-up.
- Collecting Christmas parcels of toiletries and small gifts for 'looked after' older teenagers and young adults who are living on their own.
- Members of the church continuing to be involved with the 7Corners project in Abergavenny, which aims to provide a safe place for young people to meet.
- Continuing our online presence, with the main Priory Eucharist continuing to be livestreamed and our Facebook and Twitter accounts kept people up to date with what was going on at the Priory.
- Artist-in-residence Jeremy Thomas completing his series of paintings of the life of Christ, entitled *The Human One*. The paintings have been seen in English and Welsh cathedrals and churches, as well as in St Mary's. The official launch of the completed series took place in a packed St Mary's in July.



A packed St Mary's for the launch of The Human One

- Supporting Fairtrade Fortnight with a coffee morning at Christchurch and continuing to serve Fairtrade tea and coffee at both Christchurch and St Mary's.
- Supporting the Christian Aid Appeal for Ukraine throughout the year, during which nearly £4,000 was raised through donations, coffee mornings, concerts and a collection at the Christchurch Nine Lessons & Carols.
- Members of the parish being encouraged to think about and tackle climate change, in however small a way, through articles in the *Four Churches' Magazine,* which was published 11 times during the year. The cost-of-living crisis was also addressed in the magazine, through articles supplied by the charity Christians Against Poverty.

On the wider Church in Wales stage, the Reverend John Connell, Jenny Lloyd and Caroline Woollard continued to serve on the Governing Body of the Church in Wales. The Reverend John Connell and Caroline Woollard both also served on the Electoral College which elected the then Right Reverend Andrew John, Bishop of Bangor, as Archbishop of Wales. They attended his enthronement in Bangor Cathedral in May.

On a diocesan level, the Reverend John Connell was installed as a Canon of Newport Cathedral in July.

The Reverend Canon John Connell, in his capacity as Chair of the St Mary's Priory Development Trust, attended Cardiff Castle on 15th September, 2022, to meet King Charles III.

Music, bells and visitors

The work of the church continued to be greatly enhanced by St Mary's Priory Choir, under the musical directorship of Tim Pratt. The Choir sang at a special Eucharist for Her Majesty's Queen Elizabeth II's Platinum Jubilee and at a Requiem Mass for the late Queen, which included *Accession Responses* by Tallis – used only during the time of Accession of a new Monarch, along with the Introit and Kyrie to Faure's sublime *Requiem*. The Choir's annual Singing Week tour in August took place locally, with services in St Mary Redcliffe Church in Bristol, All Saints Church in Cheltenham and Worcester Cathedral.



St Mary's Priory Choir at St Mary Redcliffe in Bristol

The church bells continued to be rung on Sundays and special occasions as well as by visiting bands.

The number of visitors to St Mary's continued to increase after the Covid restrictions eased, with the unique Jesse figure one of the main attractions. Our stewards continued to make people welcome and to facilitate both heritage visits and those who wished to pray.

SPECIAL ACTIVITIES

Fellowship, Fundraising and Hosting Events, which included but was not limited to:

- Coffee after services at both St Mary's and Christchurch.
- Three concerts by The Gwent Bach Choir, two in St Mary's and one in St Mary's Priory Centre.
- A Diocesan Education Day in June.
- VU Amsterdam Chamber Choir concert at St Mary's in July.
- The Food Festival organisation again using the Priory and Tithe Barn Courtyards in September.
- Church volunteers providing Tea on the Vicarage Lawn during the Food Festival, as well as craft activities on the church courtyard and providing a quiet space within the church on an otherwise very busy weekend in town.
- Hosting Abergavenny Pride in July, including a Eucharist presided at by the Right Reverend Cherry Vann, Bishop of Monmouth, music and a 'Faith Space' where the Bishop and the Reverend Canon John Connell talked about faith and sexuality.

Reference and administration details

St Mary's Priory Church and its daughter church, Christchurch, is in the Parish of Abergavenny, part of Abergavenny Ministry Area and Deanery of Abergavenny and the Diocese of Monmouth in the Church of Wales.

Incumbent and ministers

The Reverend Canon John Connell continued to serve as Rector and the Reverend Lea Ryder as curate.

The Reverend Jeff Pearse continued to serve as self-supporting Assistant Priest until his retirement in June.

The worship in the parish was made possible through the on-going contribution of our Licensed Lay Minister Gaynor Parfitt; retired ministers the Reverend Malcolm Lane, the Reverend Jeremy Dowding, the Reverend Jan Delaney and the Reverend Canon Stephen James.

Objectives and activities

We review our aims, objectives, and activities each year, looking at what we have achieved and the outcomes of our work in the previous twelve months. The review looks at the success of each key activity and benefits of activities in a wide variety of cultural areas. The review also helps us ensure our aims, objectives and activities remained focused on our stated objective.

When reviewing our aims and objectives and in planning and considering our activities for the year, the incumbent, and the Parochial Church Council (PCC) have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and, in particular, the specific guidance on charities for the advancement of religion.

The objective of the Charity is promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church. Encouraging and facilitating the practice of the Christian Faith by the Churches includes the following:

- Conducting regular Christian worship in both Churches.
- The celebration of the Holy Eucharist on seven days each week at St Mary's Priory Church.
- Marriages, funerals and baptisms.
- The provision and maintenance of the fabric of St Mary's Priory Church, Abergavenny, and of Christchurch, Abergavenny and their associated buildings.
- Opening St Mary's daily for the public to enter and benefit from personal spiritual contemplation and to be able to view the medieval monuments and learn about the Benedictine foundation of the Church and its place in the history of Christianity and of Abergavenny.
- The maintenance of Christian burial places.
- Promoting the study of Christian teaching, practices and Scriptures.
- The provision of means and encouragement to promote fellowship within the membership of the Churches and the wider community.

In addition to the above, Christian devotional acts and outreach work are carried out, when permitted, including:

- Visiting the sick.
- Administering the Sacraments to those unable to attend regular acts of worship, and to the sick and dying.
- Supporting pastoral work.
- Fostering ecumenical links between differing Christian denominations.
- Supporting the work of other charities through, among others, the Mothers' Union, the Bridge to Cross Trust (7Corners) and the Rachel Herbert Trust.

The work of the Church is governed by safeguarding policies of the Church in Wales, responsible adults are required to have DBS checks and the joint parishes have appointed a safeguarding co-ordinator who liaises with the Provincial safeguarding officer if necessary.

Further achievements in the year

Monies were raised by freewill offertory and by donations. These were used to support the work and administration of the churches and wider mission. Volunteers have donated their time to help at each act of worship to support the clergy, stewarded the churches, worked in the garden, arranged flowers, and many other vital activities, without which the churches could not survive.

The churches will continue with acts of worship and pastoral care during 2023 and will continue actively to try to increase the Electoral Roll, through our mission work in the community.

The Trustees

The Trustees who served the Charity during the period during 2022 (unless otherwise stated) were as follows:

The Reverend Canon John Connell	Rector, chairman; Member of Governing Body of the Church in Wales
The Reverend Jeff Pearse	Self-supporting Assistant Priest (until June)
The Reverend Lea Ryder	Curate
Mrs Sheila Davies	Assistant People's Warden, Representative on the Deanery Conference
Mrs Margaret Dodd	
Mr Alan Freebury	
Mr Stephan Grabner	
Mrs Diane John	
Mr Steven Lamerton	Gift Aid Treasurer
Mrs Jenny Lloyd	Member of Church in Wales Governing Body
Ms Lauren Moffitt	
Mrs Wendy Pendry	
Mr Tim Pratt	Parish Rector's Warden
Mrs Patricia Ransome	
Mr Robin Smith	St Mary's Treasurer
Mr Jeremy Thomas	Assistant Rector's Warden
Mrs Sheila Woodhouse	Vicar's warden at Christchurch, Christchurch Treasurer
Ms Caroline Woollard	Parish People's Warden, representative on the Diocesan Conference and member of the Governing Body of the Church in Wales, Lay Canon of Newport Cathedral



The Reverend Jeff Pearse

In addition, Mrs Eunice Marsh served as Trustee and PCC Secretary from the beginning of the year until the Vestry Meeting.

Structure, governance and management

The Parish of Abergavenny is part of the Diocese of Monmouth within the Church in Wales. The Church in Wales is a Province within the Anglican Communion and, as such, exists to advance the Christian Religion through world-wide mission. The object of the Parochial Church Council is to ensure that the life and work of the Church within the Parish helps to fulfil that mission, both locally and more widely.

The Representative Body of the Church in Wales holds the land and property of the Church in Wales, including St Mary's Priory Church, Christchurch and other church buildings, and including the Garden of Rest at St Mary's, and their contents. The Representative Body is an exempt Charity and was set up under Section 13(2) of the Welsh Churches Act 1914. It acts on behalf of the Province in paying the stipends of the full-time clergy, and administers the Church in Wales scheme of covenanted and gift aid giving, recovering tax on behalf of the parishes.

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is not a body corporate, its composition, procedure and powers being regulated by the Constitution of the Church in Wales as amended from time to time by its Governing Body set up under Section 13(1) of the Welsh Church Act 1914. Elections are held at an Annual Vestry Meeting which must take place on or before April 30 each year. All persons whose names are entered on the Electoral Roll are entitled to vote and stand for election. Before assuming office, every member of the PCC publicly makes a declaration that he or she will

be bound by the Constitution. The Members and Officers of the PCC, including the Incumbent, on appointment, become Trustees of the 'Parish of Abergavenny Parochial Church Council Charity Trust'.

The PCC also appoints the Priory Trustees, a body set up under a 1925 Deed of Trust to administer certain lands and properties held by the Representative Body as Custodian Trustees on behalf of and for the benefit of the Parish. The Trustees report to the PCC and their accounts are kept separate but consolidated with those of St Mary's and Christchurch within the Charity Accounts presented with this report.

Property administered by the Priory Trustees includes the Priory Centre, the Tithe Barn, and the Holywell Community House. The latter two have been purchased in recent years and their freehold values are shown in the Accounts of this Charity. The properties also include the Priory Meadow, which is leased to Monmouthshire County Council and is used as an extension of their Swan Meadow Car Park

Commercial Operations in the Priory Centre and the Tithe Barn are also managed and controlled by the Trustees.

Risk Review

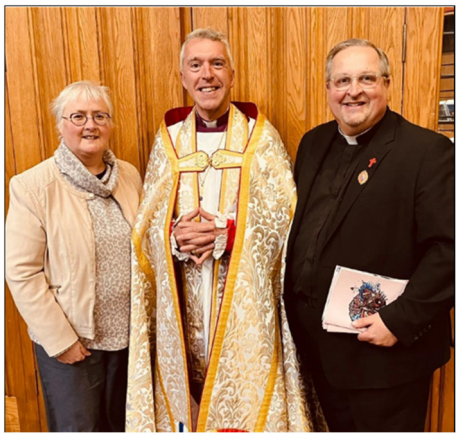
The PCC has conducted its own review of the major risks to which the Charity is exposed and systems have been established to mitigate those risks. The risks facing the Charity include the state of repair of the Churches and the financial requirements to meet its stated activities, including payment of its Annual Parish Share, bearing in mind the fall in the numbers of regular worshippers and the reduction in regular giving. The structure of the Churches is continually monitored by the PCC and the Church's professional advisers and the finances are controlled by careful budgeting and encouragement and appeals to the worshippers and visitors.

The Trustees continued to develop an evacuation plan in the event of a major incident. This plan will include the safe removal of both people and major artefacts.

There have been no serious incidents or other matters relating to this charity over the previous financial year that we should have brought to the attention of the Charity Commissioners but have not.

Organisational Structure

The PCC is responsible inter-alia for promoting the mission of the Church, the parochial budget and all expenditure thereunder, the care and maintenance of the fabric of the Churches and associated buildings and of the Garden of Remembrance, and for action on any other matter referred to it in accordance with the constitution. The PCC is also the normal channel of communication between the parishioners and the Bishop of the diocese. All members of the PCC are volunteers.



Churchwarden Caroline Woollard, and the Reverend John Connell with the Archbishop of Wales, the Most Reverend Andrew John, at his enthronement

In addition to the election of members, the Officers, i.e. The People's Warden and the Assistant People's Warden are elected at the annual Easter Vestry; the Vicar appoints the Vicar's Warden and two Vicar's assistant wardens at the same meeting. New representatives are told of their responsibilities and of the issues facing the Churches by existing representatives, and receive such additional training as required. Other Officers, including the Secretary, Treasurer and Gift Aid Treasurer are appointed at the first meeting of the PCC after the Vestry Meeting.

As indicated, members of the PCC also serve as representatives on the Deanery and Diocesan Conferences and the Governing Body of the Church in Wales, the Electoral College and the Provincial Discernment Panel. St Mary's and Christchurch are active members of Abergavenny Council of Churches and volunteers help run mission events in Abergavenny, including activities for Christian Aid Fortnight, Fair Trade Fortnight, Easter and Christmas.

The Churches are run entirely by volunteers as the clergy are remunerated by another charity from the Parish Share payments made by all the Churches in the Diocese. Without the work of these volunteers, who, for example, enable St Mary's to be kept open every day for members of the public to visit and to pray, the Churches would not function.

As of December 2022 the Charity employed three people (one full-time equivalent).

Committee structure

The PCC met eight times during the year, with the Council taking on the work of the previous committee structure of Mission & Outreach, Finance & Premises, and Fundraising. Some decisions were taken by the Standing Committee (Rector, Treasurer and Churchwardens) in addition to those taken by the PCC at meetings or via email.

The Priory Trustees met online and via email.

FABRIC

Partly because of the significant reduction in the Charity's income, little progress was made regarding the two major schemes reported in previous years. However, our appointed Structural Engineers have provided a detailed repair scheme for the repair of the cracks in the walls of the turret staircase in the northeast corner of the North Transept and this was used as the basis for a tender exercise during the autumn. As a result a contractor has been chosen but work has not commenced while grants are sought – the final cost is likely to be 25% higher, at around £50,000, than the original forecast. If grants are not forthcoming the Charity will have to consider using its remaining financial reserves to fund the work during 2023.

Also reflecting the current financial constraints, there has again been no progress during 2022 regarding the other outstanding major project detailed in previous Reports, the repairs to the bulging Grade 1 Listed wall between the Church Forecourt and the Prince of Wales Courtyard.

Unfortunately a further demand on funding, when available, has been the collapse of the cast-iron gate giving access to the North Walkway. The gate is some 220 years old and broke into two halves with little warning but happily without causing any injury. All the parts have been recovered to safe storage and expert guidance is being sought as to whether the gate can be repaired or whether a replacement will have to be cast, likely to be at considerable expense.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Results

Following the end of the pandemic and the associated restrictions on the activities of the Charity, the provision of acts of worship, including Weddings and Funerals, gradually returned to pre-pandemic levels. As a result the direct voluntary contributions received during Services, excluding tax reclaimed through Gift Aid, amounted to £58,257 (2021: £50,326), which is about 75% of pre-pandemic levels, in line with current attendance compared to five years ago .

Other general income, including that generated from fundraising activities, was £110,974 (2021: £119,566). The reduction reflected that in 2021 a single donation of £15,000 was received towards the mission activities of the Charity. Otherwise, the figures include a gradual increase in revenue from activities in both the Priory Centre and the Tithe Barn.

No funding (2021: £1,612) was received by way of grants from external agencies and the Charity received no other grants for services delivered from central or local government during the year

The level of general expenditure, excluding exceptional items, amounted to £196,600 (2021: £199,872), remaining much lower than was normal pre-pandemic, but still exceeding the income received and generated.

Expenditure on exceptional items during the year amounted to £3,062 (2021: £14,730), of which half was to reimburse the Structural Engineers for their work to develop the repair scheme for the North Transept staircase.

The net assets of the Charity at 31 December 2021 amounted to £439,913 (31/12/2021: £466,597) including freehold properties valued at £362,641 (unchanged). This reduction was the result in the charity having to continue using (and reducing) its financial reserves to cover its ongoing expenditure.

During the year the Charity continued to face the challenge of managing its cash flow particularly due to the reduced levels of income and the diminishing level of financial reserves within which it operates, contrary to its policy but reflecting current realities.

Reserves Policy

The Parochial Church Council recognises the need to hold reserves to ensure funding is available to provide continuing mission should income levels fall. Reserves are also required to meet the future maintenance programme for the Churches and Church buildings.

A minimum level of reserves also needs to be retained to ensure the PCC can meet its legal commitments should the Charity be unable to continue due to a lack of a sustainable income stream. The Officers of the PCC have established a policy whereby the unrestricted funds not designated for specific use by the PCC or invested in tangible fixed assets, ie the free reserves held by the Charity, should ideally be between three and six months of the resources expended in general funds.

The Charity is dependent on donations, grants and investment income. The economic climate remains uncertain and interest rates continue at historically low levels, both of which factors are likely to have an on-going negative impact on future income streams.

Investment Policy

Despite the continuation of historically low rates of interest, the PCC has concluded the most appropriate policy for investing funds remains to achieve the best possible rate from our bankers commensurate with maintaining the capability of rapid access to the funds in the event of a call on them.

Bankers

Lloyds Bank, 54 Cross Street, Abergavenny, Monmouthshire NP7 5HB

HSBC Bank plc, 2 Frogmore Street, Abergavenny, NP7 5AF

Barclays Bank, 57 Frogmore Street, Abergavenny, NP7 5AT

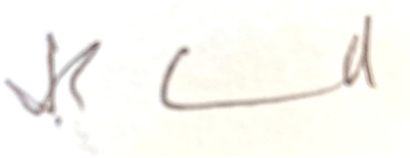
Independent Examiner

Dorrell Oliver Limited, Linden House, Monk Street, Abergavenny, Monmouthshire NP7 5NF

Professional Advisers (Historic Buildings)

Arnold Bartosch Ltd, 1 Bath Mews, Bath Parade, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire GL53 7HL

Approved by the Trustees and signed on their behalf by



The Reverend Canon John Connell



The Reverend Canon John Connell meets His Majesty King Charles III at Cardiff Castle shortly after his accession to the throne

PARISH OF ABERGAVENNY PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Charity Number 1137751

Accounts

- For the year ended -

31 December 2022

DORRELL OLIVER LTD

Linden House
Monk Street
Abergavenny
Monmouthshire
NP7 5NF

PARISH OF ABERGAVENNY PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Independent Examiner's Report

Year ended 31 December 2022

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the Parish of Abergavenny Parochial Church Council
I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2022 which are set out on pages 2 to 9.

Responsibilities and basis of report
As the charity's trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Act and in carrying out my independent examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement
I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the independent examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

P. E. Lea FCA
Dorrell Oliver Limited
Linden House
Monk Street
Abergavenny
Monmouthshire
NP7 5NF

Date: April 2023

PARISH OF ABERGAVENNY PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL
Statement of Financial Activities
Year ended 31 December 2022

			£	£	2022 £	£	£	2021 £
INCOMING RESOURCES/RECEIPTS		Note	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total
Voluntary income	Planned giving		36,003	-	36,003	43,711	-	43,711
	Loose Collections		22,254	-	22,254	6,614	-	6,614
	Donations		13,077	-	13,077	9,953	-	9,953
	For Mission		5,832	-	5,832	17,571	-	17,571
	Tax refunds		8,255	-	8,255	10,993	-	10,993
	Tax refunds GASDS		1,888	-	1,888	1,585	-	1,585
	VAT recovered		-	-	-	326	-	326
	Grants		-	-	-	1,612	-	1,612
Generated income	Money Raising	2	12,216	-	12,216	6,247	-	6,247
	Singing Week		1,123	-	1,123	2,008	-	2,008
	Church Fees		21,743	-	21,743	9,215	-	9,215
	Tithe Barn and Priory Centre	3	26,941	-	26,941	15,198	-	15,198
Investment income		4	19,899	-	19,899	27,198	-	27,198
Other income	Parish Share Rebate and relief		3,747	-	3,747	67,937	-	67,937
	HMRC Furlough Scheme		-	-	-	11,908	-	11,908
	Insurance claim (2021: Organ)		-	-	-	3,378	-	3,378
	Utilities refunds		-	-	-	2,525	-	2,525
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES/RECEIPTS			172,978	-	172,978	237,979	-	237,979
RESOURCES EXPENDED/PAYMENTS								
Support for ministry	Parish share		76,590	-	76,590	83,180	-	83,180
	Parochial expenses of clerics		2,524	-	2,524	2,099	-	2,099
Parish Activities	Maintenance of Services	5	17,507	-	17,507	12,667	-	12,667
	General Parish Expenses	6	11,756	-	11,756	10,403	-	10,403
	Tithe Barn and Priory Centre	3	41,324	-	41,324	43,033	-	43,033
Church Property	Maintenance of Churches	7	20,541	-	20,541	14,710	-	14,710
	Maintenance of other property	8	3,566	-	3,566	10,056	-	10,056
	Exceptional Expenditure	9	3,062	-	3,062	14,730	-	14,730
Grants and Financial Support	Parish	10	5,187	-	5,187	3,330	-	3,330
	Home/World		16,142	-	16,142	19,116	-	19,116
Other resources Expended	Cost of money raising	2	1,463	-	1,463	1,278	-	1,278
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED/PAYMENTS			199,662	-	199,662	214,602	-	214,602
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS			**(26,684)**	-	**(26,684)**	**23,377**	-	**23,377**
Balance brought forward	1 January		466,597	-	466,597	443,220		**443,220**
Unrealised gain on Legacy			-	-	-	-	-	-
Balance carried forward	31 December		**439,913**	-	**439,913**	**466,597**	-	**466,597**

PARISH OF ABERGAVENNY PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL
STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES
AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2022

	Notes	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	2022 Total £	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	2021 Total £
FIXED ASSETS							
Freehold Properties	11	362,641	-	362,641	362,641	-	362,641
		362,641	-	362,641	362,641	-	362,641
CURRENT ASSETS							
Cash Funds:							
Cash: Bank Deposit Accounts		28,312	-	28,312	57,289	-	57,289
Bank Current Accounts		35,663	-	35,663	35,006	-	35,006
Cash in Hand		200	-	200	200	-	200
Other Monetary Assets:							
Stock		10,000	-	10,000	10,000	-	10,000
Debtors		3,158	-	3,158	1,605	-	1,605
TOTAL ASSETS		439,974	-	439,974	466,741	-	466,741
CURRENT LIABILITIES							
Amounts falling due within one year	12	(61)	-	(61)	(144)	-	(144)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		439,913	-	439,913	466,597	-	466,597
Amounts falling due after more than one year	12	-	-	-	-	-	-
NET ASSETS		439,913	-	439,913	466,597	-	466,597
REPRESENTED BY:							
FUNDS							
Brought forward		466,597	-	466,597	443,220		443,220
Surplus/(deficit) for the year		(26,684)	-	(26,684)	23,377	-	23,377
Carried forward	13	439,913	-	439,913	466,597	-	466,597

The financial statements were approved by the trustees on.....

.....
Trustee

Charity information
The Parish of Abergavenny Parochial Church Council (the PCC) is a UK unincorporated charity
Charity Number 1137751.

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

1.1 Basis of preparation
The accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention modified to include the revaluation of certain land and buildings.
The accounts have been prepared in accordance with applicable accounting standards, the Statement of Recommended Practice, "Accounting and Reporting by Charities", issued in March 2005 and the Charities Act 2011.

1.2 Going concern
At the time of approving the financial statements, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the PCC has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus the trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

1.3 Charitable funds
Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of their charitable objectives unless the funds have been designated for other purposes.

The accounts include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law. They do not include the accounts of church groups that owe their main affiliation to another body nor those that are informal gatherings of Church members.

1.4 Incoming resources
Income is recognised when the PCC is legally entitled to it after any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably, and it is probable that income will be received.

Cash donations are recognised on receipt. Other donations are recognised once the PCC has been notified of the donation, unless performance conditions require deferral of the amount. Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

All income is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities once the charity has entitlement to the funds, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTD.)

1.5 Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are initially measured at cost and subsequently measured at cost or valuation, net of depreciation and any impairment losses.
Depreciation is recognised so as to write off the cost or valuation of assets over their useful lives on the following basis:

Freehold properties : no depreciation charged

The gain or loss arising on the disposal of an asset is determined as the difference between the sale proceeds and the carrying value of the asset and is credited or charged to the Statement of Financial Activities

1.6 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less.

1.7 Financial instruments

The PCC has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial instruments are recognised in the PCC balance sheet when the PCC becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

Basic financial assets

Basic financial assets, which include debtors and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

Basic financial liabilities

Basic financial liabilities, including creditors and bank loans are initially recognised at transaction price.

1.8 Taxation

The charity is exempt from tax on its charitable activities.

1.9 Stocks

Stocks have been valued at the lower of cost or net realisable value.

2. MONEY RAISING

Fund raising

	Proceeds	Costs	2022 Net	2021 Net
	£	£	£	£
St. Mary's	5,485	1,097	4,388	2,762
Christchurch	3,042	366	2,676	697
Other Groups	339	-	339	113
	8,866	1,463	7,403	3,572
Bookstall	1,464	-	1,464	847
Christchurch Hall income	1,886	-	1,886	550
	12,216	1,463	10,753	4,969

3. PRIORY CENTRE & TITHE BARN

	Proceeds	Costs	2022 Net	2021 Net
	£	£	£	£
Catering and Bar	5,613	2,181	3,432	647
Room Hire, Learning space and Tourist Centre	21,328	24,553	(3,225)	(10,199)
Facilities Co-ordinator salaries	-	14,590	(14,590)	(18,283)
	26,941	41,324	(14,383)	(27,835)

4. INVESTMENT INCOME

	2022	2021
	£	£
Interest	63	11
Car park rent and Prince of Wales Courtyard	12,543	13,880
Rental income -property Holywell Close	7,293	10,740
Income on investment encashed (from legacy)	-	2,567
	19,899	27,198

5. MAINTENANCE OF SERVICES

	2022 £	2021 £
Remuneration of Organist	9,683	8,599
Candles, Wine and Wafers	1,840	235
Choir, Organ & Bells	1,842	1,689
Other Churches	4,142	2,144
	17,507	12,667

6. GENERAL PARISH EXPENSES

	2022 £	2021 £
Sundry expenditure	3,128	878
Singing Week	1,029	2,277
Printing and Stationery	483	274
Postage	40	494
Vicars PA	7,076	6,480
	11,756	10,403

7. MAINTENANCE OF CHURCHES

	2022 £	2021 £
Light and Heat	8,700	6,986
Insurance	4,617	4,434
General repairs	7,224	3,290
	20,541	14,710

8. MAINTENANCE OF OTHER PROPERTY

		2022 £	2021 £
Outgoings Vicarages:	St Mary's	901	1,811
4 Holywell Close	Outgoings	454	5,378
	Loan interest	-	521
Outgoings Christchurch Hall		-	1,350
Car park and Prince of Wales Courtyard		1,705	630
Garden of Rest		506	366
		3,566	10,056

9. EXCEPTIONAL EXPENDITURE

	2022	2021
	£	£
North aisle roof	951	1,864
North Transept	1,517	1,110
Garden of Rest gates	594	-
Chamber organ repairs	-	3,878
Tithe Barn electrical upgrade	-	4,656
Lewis Chapel roof	-	3,222
	3,062	14,730

10. MISSION PARISH

	£	£
Donation shared Other Churches	517	60
Magazines, notices etc.	4,670	3,270
	5,187	3,330

11. FREEHOLD PROPERTIES

	Cost	Estimated Value	Total
	£	£	£
4 Holywell Close, Abergavenny	260,889	-	260,889
The Priory Meadow, Abergavenny	-	25,000	25,000
Tithe Barn	76,752	-	76,752
	337,641	25,000	362,641

13. Funds

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total £
Fund Balances at 31 December 2022 are represented by:			
Fixed assets	362,641	-	362,641
Current assets	77,333	-	77,333
Creditors:			
Amounts due within one year	(61)	-	(61)
	439,913	-	439,913

14. Trustees

Mrs M Pratt, the spouse of one of the trustees, received remuneration as Vicars PA during the year of £7,076 (2021:£6,480).
Mr S Pratt, the son of one of the trustees, received remuneration as an administrator at the Priory centre and Tithe barn during the year.

15. Employees

The average number of persons employed by the PCC during the year was 3. (2021: 3).

16. Related parties

There were no disclosable related party transactions during the year (2021 -none).

PARISH OF ABERGAVENNY PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Independent Examiner's Report

Year ended 31 December 2022

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the Parish of Abergavenny Parochial Church Council
I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2022 which are set out on pages 2 to 9.

Responsibilities and basis of report
As the charity's trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Act and in carrying out my independent examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement
I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the independent examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

P. E. Lea FCA
Dorrell Oliver Limited
Linden House
Monk Street
Abergavenny
Monmouthshire
NP7 5NF

Date: April 2023

ABERGAVENNY MINISTRY AREA

England & Wales - Charity number 1137751

Accounts

PARISH OF ABERGAVENNY PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Charity number: 1137751

Annual Report and Financial Statements

for the year ending December 31, 2021

Trustees' report

The trustees have pleasure in presenting their report and the financial statements of the charity for the year ending December 31, 2021. The organisational structure, administration details and governance of the charity are set out later in this report, while the activities of the church form the first part.



From left, the late Venerable Sue Pinnington, acting Archdeacon of Monmouth; the Right Reverend Cherry Vann, Bishop of Monmouth; the Reverend John Connell; and the Reverend Julian Gray, Abergavenny Area Dean at the licensing of the Reverend John Connell as Rector of the parish

Summary

This year was one of increasing stability, as the country began to come out of its Covid restrictions, and the Reverend John Connell was installed as our rector. Another source of joy was the confirmation of three youngsters and one adult in November. Work stepped up on the development of the new Ministry Area, which will see six parishes (seven churches) join together in 2023.

The following report on the activities of St Mary's Priory and its daughter church Christchurch demonstrate what the charity has done during the year to carry out these purposes for the public benefit.

Activities

The Parish continued to endeavour to enable the wider community to live out their faith through wide-ranging activities, which can be split broadly into four categories:

- worship, prayer and pastoral care;
- mission and outreach;
- special events;
- fundraising, fellowship and hosting events.

Worship, prayer and pastoral care

The service pattern changed during the year, the first three months of which saw the continuation of services online. The churches reopened at Easter and the congregations, albeit limited in number because of social distancing rules, were welcomed back in time to celebrate Easter Day.

Our Musical Director Tim Pratt initiated services of Vespers on four evenings each week after Easter, with a sung service of Vespers, Compline or Evensong on Fridays reinstated later in the year.

In September, the liturgy and service pattern changed, with Lauds, Eucharist and Vespers taking place Monday to Friday, and the Church in Wales 2004 rite being used at most Eucharist services, including the 11am Sunday Priory Eucharist. A service on Wednesday evenings began, using the 1662 service. The 1984 Book of Common Prayer continued to be used at some services, including Evensong.

As well as the usual weekday and Sunday worship during the year, whether online or in-person, there were a number of special services and events, albeit very limited because of the pandemic, including:

- Evening prayer held online during Lent.
- The licensing of the Reverend John Connell as Rector on May 9.
- The licensing of the Reverend Lea Ryder as curate in the Abergavenny and Govilon groups in July.
- A visit from the Right Reverend Cherry Vann Bishop of Monmouth in July, during which she walked through Abergavenny and met lay leaders from the proposed Ministry Area.
- Abergavenny's Civic Service on October 3, at which the new Mayor of Abergavenny Councillor Tudor Thomas, his wife Mrs Jan Thomas and town councillors were present along with local civic representatives, church, and community leaders. The service was led by the Rector and the preacher was the Reverend John Humphreys, parish priest of Llanddewi Rhydderch, where Councillor Thomas and Mrs Thomas worship.
- On Armistice Day, November 11, and on Remembrance Sunday, November 14, the Reverend Jeff Pearse, Assistant Priest and Chaplain of the Royal British Legion, led the Act of Remembrance at the Town War Memorial. The Rector officiated at the laying of wreaths on the Memorial at the market entrance before officiating and preaching at the Priory Eucharist, where wreaths were laid on the war memorials inside St Mary's Priory.
- Two Order of St John's Investiture Services on November 27, at which volunteers from across South Wales received honours, including promotions, commendations for individuals who carried out lifesaving acts, and long service and ultra-long service medals, with the longest honouring 55 years of service.
- Confirmation service on November 28, at which three youngsters and one adult were confirmed by the Right Reverend Cherry Vann.
- While Christchurch cancelled its Nine Lessons & Carols service – traditionally the readers were local schoolchildren, but this wasn't possible because of Covid – St Mary's did hold the annual Advent Carol and Nine Lessons & Carols services. However, all visiting carol services, usually staged by local schools and charities, were cancelled due to Covid, as was St Mary's hugely popular Christingle service.



The Confirmation service on November 28

In addition to our regular services, we continued, when possible, to enable our community to celebrate and thank God in the milestones of the journey through life. As in 2020, and as expected, these life event services were much reduced, with five baptisms, four weddings and 15 funerals, although the clergy conducted many more funerals at local crematoria.

The number recorded on the Electoral roll for both churches on December 31, 2021, was 184.

We are working towards creating a Ministry Area with the formation of a Ministry Area Transition Team and smaller committees considering key issues relating to finance, governance and communications.

We are working towards creating a new Ministry Area, with its own governance structure in line with the Constitution of the Church in Wales with effect from January 1, 2023, which will include the parishes of Llanwenarth Citra, Govilon, Llanellen, Llanfoist, Abergavenny Holy Trinity as well as St Mary's with Christchurch. A Ministry Area Transition Team was formed, together with smaller committees considering key issues relating to finance, governance and communications. The aims and purposes of the new Abergavenny Ministry Area will be consistent with the current ones for St Mary's with Christchurch.

Mission and outreach work

Much of the in-person mission and outreach work of the parish was curtailed by the pandemic. However, members of the congregations supported Abergavenny Food Bank, shopped for neighbours, and kept in touch with other worshippers, particularly the elderly and those shielding or ill.

Members of our Mothers' Union continued to volunteer at a contact centre for children suffering family break-up.

We were able to collect for the Shoebox Appeal, sending 93 boxes to people in Eastern Europe. Nearer home, we assembled Christmas parcels of toiletries and small gifts for 'looked after' older teenagers and young adults who are living on their own.

Members of the church continued to be involved with the 7Corners project in Abergavenny, which aims to provide a safe place for young people to meet, albeit only online during lockdown, although it did hold in-person, socially-distanced, sessions with young people in the local park and, later in the year, at 7Corners itself.

The church's mission and outreach stretched beyond the four walls of the churches or even the town, with our online presence. As well as the online services, our Facebook and Twitter accounts kept people up to date with what was going on at the Priory. There continues to be a great deal of interest in the work of our artist-in-residence Jeremy Thomas as he completes his paintings of the life of Christ. Since St Mary's has opened to visitors, he has conducted a number of 'tours' of his paintings.



Jeremy Thomas' painting of the Temptation of Christ

On the wider Church in Wales stage, Governing Body members the Reverend John Connell and Caroline Woollard participated at meetings during which the Church declared a climate emergency and, later in the year, approved the Bill to allow blessings of same-sex civil partnerships and marriages, among other items of business.

Members of the parish were encouraged to think about and tackle climate change, in however small a way, through articles in the *Four Churches' Magazine,* which was published 11 times during the year.

On a diocesan level, Caroline Woollard was installed as a Lay Canon of Newport Cathedral, one of five lay canons – the first time in the Cathedral's history that members of the laity have become canons.

Music, bells and visits

The work of the church is greatly enhanced by St Mary's Priory Choir, under the musical directorship of Tim Pratt. As 2021 we were still in the midst of Covid restrictions, and our activities were limited to making recordings as we waited out the national lockdown. It was a frustrating time that almost inevitably saw us lose a number of children from the choir who unsurprisingly found on-line singing too difficult. As we headed towards Easter, there was the real prospect that for the second year there would be little of the special music that was so much a part of our work. However, we did manage to provide pre-recorded services for Holy Week, including a recording of the *Brocke's Passion* by Telemann, the longest and most adventurous recording project we undertook.

Fortunately, after Easter we were able to resume live singing, albeit in groups of six and spread out across the Quire and Transepts. Rehearsals were held in the Priory Centre maintaining 2 metre distancing. Achieving a good ensemble was hard, but at least we were singing! This meant we were able to provide a choir for Fr John's installation in May. As time went on, we started to feel a bit more confident and, indeed were able to go away on tour once more with visits to Dore Abbey and Tewkesbury Abbey for "Singing Week".

After the summer, restrictions eased further and the need for singers to be so widely spaced started to be less essential which made our job that much easier. For the first time since 2019 we were able to plan and deliver a "normal" Carol Service and, as the year drew to a close, there was some optimism that before too long, we would indeed be able to get back to some sort of normality.

Encouragingly, we even gained some new adult members and look forward to an even better year in 2022.

It wasn't possible for the church bells to be rung for services or by visiting bands during lockdown, although they were welcomed back when the church re-opened.

The number of visitors to St Mary's gradually increased as lockdown eased, particularly after the showing of the TV programme *A History of Welsh Art*, which featured the Jesse Tree. Many of these visitors specifically journeyed to Abergavenny after watching it. Our stewards continued to make people welcome and to facilitate both heritage visits and those who wished to pray.

SPECIAL ACTIVITIES

Fellowship, Fundraising and Hosting Events



Coffee after the service resumed at Christchurch in June

As in 2020, many of the usual annual events were not held in 2021 because of Covid. However, the following did take place:

- Coffee after services resumed at Christchurch in June and at St Mary's in August.
- Made in Monmouthshire took over the Prince of Wales Courtyard during September's Food Festival.
- The Arts Council visited the Priory Church in October.
- Gwent Bach Choir staged a *Come Sing Messiah* event in November.
- The Heritage Lottery Fund held a training day in December.

Reference and administration details

St Mary's Priory Church and its daughter church, Christchurch, is in the Parish of Abergavenny, part of Abergavenny Ministry Area and Deanery of Abergavenny and the Diocese of Monmouth in the Church of Wales.

Incumbent and ministers

The parish continued in interregnum until May when the Reverend John Connell was installed as Rector in May and the Reverend Lea Ryder as curate in July.

The Reverend Jeff Pearse continued to serve as self-supporting Assistant Priest and his ministry and care enabled the parish to continue our work during the interregnum and beyond.

The worship in the parish was made possible through the on-going contribution of our Licensed Lay Minister Gaynor Parfitt; retired ministers the Reverend Malcolm Lane, the Reverend Ian Aveson, the Reverend Jeremy Dowding and the Reverend Canon Stephen James.

Objectives and activities

We review our aims, objectives and activities each year, looking at what we have achieved and the outcomes of our work in the previous twelve months. The review looks at the success of each key activity and benefits of activities in a wide variety of cultural areas. The review also helps us ensure our aims, objectives and activities remained focused on our stated objective.

When reviewing our aims and objectives and in planning and considering our activities for the year, the incumbent and the Parochial Church Council (PCC) have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and, in particular, the specific guidance on charities for the advancement of religion.

The objective of the Charity is promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church. Encouraging and facilitating the practice of the Christian Faith by the Churches includes the following – these remain our objectives and we aim to fulfil all of them when allowed to do so under Covid-19 regulations:

- Conducting regular Christian worship in both Churches.
- The celebration of the Holy Eucharist on seven days each week at St Mary's Priory Church.
- Marriages, funerals and baptisms.

- The provision and maintenance of the fabric of St Mary's Priory Church, Abergavenny, and of Christchurch, Abergavenny and their associated buildings.
- Opening St Mary's daily for the public to enter and benefit from personal spiritual contemplation and to be able to view the medieval monuments and learn about the Benedictine foundation of the Church and its place in the history of Christianity and of Abergavenny.
- The maintenance of Christian burial places.
- Promoting the study of Christian teaching, practices and Scriptures.
- The provision of means and encouragement to promote fellowship within the membership of the Churches and the wider community.

In addition to the above, Christian devotional acts and outreach work are carried out, when permitted, including:

- Visiting the sick.
- Administering the Sacraments to those unable to attend regular acts of worship, and to the sick and dying.
- Supporting pastoral work.
- Fostering ecumenical links between differing Christian denominations.
- Supporting the work of other charities through, among others, the Mothers' Union, the Bridge to Cross Trust (7Corners) and the Rachel Herbert Trust.

The work of the Church is governed by safeguarding policies of the Church in Wales, responsible adults are required to have DBS checks and the joint parishes have appointed a safeguarding co-ordinator who liaises with the Provincial safeguarding officer if necessary.

Further achievements in the year

Monies were raised by freewill offertory and by the limited number of visitors. These were used to support the work and administration of the churches and wider mission, where possible. Volunteers have donated their time to help at each act of worship to support the clergy and to ensure the churches are Covid-19 safe. They have stewarded the churches, re-ordered the seating, run booking systems, telephoned members of the congregations and distributed pew leaflets, pastoral letters and magazines.

The Parish will continue with acts of worship and pastoral care during 2022 and will continue actively to try to increase the Electoral Roll, through our mission work in the community.

The Trustees

The trustees who served the Charity during the period from the Annual Vestry Meeting on May 21, 2021, until the end of the year (unless otherwise stated) were as follows:

The Reverend John Connell	Rector, chairman (from May 9)
The Reverend Jeff Pearse	Self-supporting Assistant Priest (Chairman from January 1 to May 8)
The Reverend Lea Ryder	Curate (from July 18)
Mrs Sheila Davies	Assistant People's Warden, Representative on the Deanery Conference
Mr Alan Freebury	
Mr Stephan Grabner	
Mr Steven Lamerton	Gift Aid Treasurer
Mrs Jenny Lloyd	
Mrs Eunice Marsh	
Mrs Wendy Pendry	
Mr Tim Pratt	Parish Rector's Warden



The Reverend Lea Ryder, Bishop Cherry Vann, and the Reverend John Connell

Mrs Patricia Ransome	
Mr Robin Smith	St Mary's Treasurer
Mr Jeremy Thomas	Assistant Rector's Warden
Ms Ann Tuxworth	PCC Secretary (until November)
Mrs Sheila Woodhouse Treasurer	Vicar's warden at Christchurch, Christchurch
Ms Caroline Woollard	Parish People's Warden, representative on the Diocesan Conference and member of the Governing Body of the Church in Wales, Lay Canon of Newport Cathedral



Caroline Woollard, second from right, with other new Canons outside Newport Cathedral

In addition, Mr Robin Alldred and Mrs Catherine Jones served as trustees from the beginning of 2021 to the Vestry meeting.

Structure, governance and management

The Parish of Abergavenny is part of the Diocese of Monmouth within the Church in Wales. The Church in Wales is a Province within the Anglican Communion and, as such, exists to advance the Christian Religion through world-wide mission. The object of the Parochial Church Council is to ensure that the life and work of the Church within the Parish helps to fulfil that mission, both locally and more widely.

The Representative Body of the Church in Wales holds the land and property of the Church in Wales, including St Mary's Priory Church, Christchurch and other church buildings, and including the Garden of Rest at St Mary's, and their contents. The Representative Body is an exempt Charity and was set up under Section 13(2) of the Welsh Churches Act 1914. It acts on behalf of the Province in paying the stipends of the full-time clergy, and administers the Church in Wales scheme of covenanted and gift aid giving, recovering tax on behalf of the parishes.

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is not a body corporate, its composition, procedure and powers being regulated by the Constitution of the Church in Wales as amended from time to time by its Governing Body set up under Section 13(1) of the Welsh Church Act 1914. Elections are held at an Annual Vestry Meeting which must take place on or before April 30 each year. All persons whose names are entered on the Electoral Roll are entitled to vote and stand for election. Before assuming office, every member of the PCC publicly makes a declaration that he or she will be bound by the Constitution. The Members and Officers of the PCC, including the Incumbent, on appointment, become Trustees of the 'Parish of Abergavenny Parochial Church Council Charity Trust'.

The PCC also appoints the Priory Trustees, a body set up under a 1925 Deed of Trust to administer certain lands and properties held by the Representative Body as Custodian Trustees on behalf of and for the benefit of the Parish. The Trustees report to the PCC and their accounts are kept separate but consolidated with those of St Mary's and Christchurch within the Charity Accounts presented with this report.

Property administered by the Priory Trustees includes the Priory Centre, the Tithe Barn and the Holywell Community House. The latter two have been purchased in recent years and their freehold values are shown in the Accounts of this Charity. The properties also include the Priory Meadow, which is leased to Monmouthshire County Council and is used as an extension of their Swan Meadow Car Park

Commercial Operations in the Priory Centre and the Tithe Barn are also managed and controlled by the Trustees.

Risk Review

The PCC has conducted its own review of the major risks to which the Charity is exposed and systems have been established to mitigate those risks. The risks facing the Charity include the state of repair of the Churches and the financial requirements to meet its stated activities, including payment of its Annual Parish Share, bearing in mind the fall in the numbers of regular worshippers and the reduction in regular giving. The structure of the Churches is continually monitored by the PCC and the Church's professional advisers and the finances are controlled by careful budgeting and encouragement and appeals to the worshippers and visitors.

The Trustees continue to develop an evacuation plan in the event of a major incident. This plan will include the safe removal of both people and major artefacts.

There have been no serious incidents or other matters relating to this charity over the previous financial year that we should have brought to the attention of the Charity Commissioners but have not.

Organisational Structure

The PCC is responsible inter-alia for promoting the mission of the Church, the parochial budget and all expenditure thereunder, the care and maintenance of the fabric of the Churches and associated buildings and of the Garden of Remembrance, and for action on any other matter referred to it in accordance with the constitution. The PCC is also the normal channel of communication between the parishioners and the Bishop of the diocese. All members of the PCC are volunteers.

In addition to the election of members, the Officers, i.e. The People's Warden and the Assistant People's Warden are elected at the annual Easter Vestry; the Vicar appoints the Vicar's Warden and two Vicar's assistant wardens at the same meeting. New representatives are told of their responsibilities and of the issues facing the Churches by existing representatives, and receive such additional training as required. Other Officers, including the Secretary, Treasurer and Gift Aid Treasurer are appointed at the first meeting of the PCC after the Vestry Meeting.



Bishop Cherry Vann chats to Christchurch churchwarden Sheila Woodhouse during the her visit to meet lay ministers and wardens of the parishes which will make up the new ministry area

As indicated, members of the PCC also serve as representatives on the Deanery and Diocesan Conferences and the Governing Body of the Church in Wales. St Mary's and Christchurch are active members of Abergavenny Council of Churches and volunteers help run mission events in Abergavenny, including activities for Christian Aid Fortnight, the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, Easter and Christmas.

The Churches are run entirely by volunteers as the clergy are remunerated by another charity from the Parish Share payments made by all the Churches in the Diocese. Without the work of these volunteers, who, for example, enable St Mary's to be kept open every day for members of the public to visit and to pray, the Churches would not function.

As of December 2020 the Charity employed three people (two full-time equivalent), although the church did take part in the Government's furlough scheme (see below).

Committee structure

The PCC met six times, either in person or via Zoom. The committee structure, which had existed in previous years, was held in abeyance, with some decisions being taken by the Standing Committee (Rector, Treasurer and Churchwardens) in addition to those taken by the PCC at meetings or via email. It is hoped that these committees (Mission & Outreach, Finance & General Purposes, St Mary's Co-ordinating committee) will be reformed during 2022, while a more complete committee structure for the proposed Ministry Area is being devised.

The Priory Trustees met online.

FABRIC

As a result of the pandemic continuing throughout the year, with consequent effects on both the activities and the finances of the Charity, very few repair schemes have been undertaken during 2021 beyond those necessary to maintain the integrity of the fabric of the various buildings and the grounds of the Priory.

The major scheme to redress the damage to the north slope of the north aisle roof caused by Storms Ciara and Dennis in early 2020 was covered in our report for that year, even though the actual repair work (funded by an insurance claim and a grant towards the associated works undertaken at the same time) was carried out in early 2021.

Another casualty of the same 2020 storms only manifested itself in summer 2021 when regular services in the Church resumed for a period, and it was discovered that water ingress into the building had also penetrated the chamber organ causing significant damage. The incident was referred to our insurers who accepted the claim and reimbursed the full cost of the specialist repairs which were carried out in November.

Little progress was made regarding the two other planned major schemes discussed in previous years. Detailed monitoring of the cracks in the walls of the turret staircase in the northeast corner of the north transept was undertaken monthly between May and December. The results were submitted to our structural engineers to assist their development of a comprehensive repair scheme. We can then take to tender as a prelude to seeking appropriate grants.

Similarly, there has been no progress during 2021 regarding the other major outstanding project detailed in previous reports, including repairs to the bulging Grade 1 Listed wall between the church forecourt and the Prince of Wales Courtyard.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Results

Reflecting the continuing reduction, due to on-going pandemic, in both the number of services and the on-going reduction of attendance at the services that were held, the direct voluntary contributions received during acts of worship, excluding tax reclaimed through Gift Aid, amounted to £50,326 (2020: £57,546), or about 60% of pre-pandemic levels. The reduced numbers of both weddings and funerals held in the churches during the year also adversely impacted on overall revenues.

Other general income, including that generated from fundraising activities but excluding a writing-off by the Diocese of the balance of our accumulated parish share under-payments, was £119,566 (2020: £122,726). This also reflected the continuing significant reduction in activities in both the Tithe Barn and the Priory Centre. The figure included £11,908 (2020: £14,060) recovered through the Government's Furlough scheme which allowed the Trust to continue employing all our three members of staff.

A total of £1,612 (2020: £17,600) was received by way of grants from a number of external agencies. The Charity received no other grants for services delivered from central or local government during the year. Reflecting the continuing pandemic, the Welsh Assembly and Local Authority groups, along with the NHS, were only very occasional users of the meeting and event accommodation provided in the Priory Centre and Tithe Barn. The one exception was the Wales Blood Service, which has recommenced using the Priory Centre at least once every month.

As noted in last year's report, early in 2021 the Trust received the cash arising from the most generous bequest from the Will of the late Gerald Jones, amounting to £153,915. This has been used to pay off all the short and long-term debts of the Trustees:

- Early repayment to the Representative Body of the remainder of the loan (£59,004 + final interest) that had enabled the Trust to purchase 4 Holywell Close several years ago.
- Repayment of the remaining £5,500 of personal loans previously received from members of the congregation.
- Full and timely remittance of all four quarterly parish share payments during the year, plus an additional one-off payment of £30,000 in full and final settlement of the outstanding debts from previous years.

The level of general expenditure, excluding exceptional items, amounted to £199,872 (2020: £200,186), still much lower than was normal pre-pandemic and reflecting the continuing reduction in the scope of both the religious and more secular activities undertaken across the parish.

Expenditure on exceptional items during the year amounted to £14,730 (2020: £17,666) including a number of significant projects covered in the fabric section of this report:

- Final costs associated with the repairs to the north aisle north slope roof and associated water goods, mostly funded through an insurance settlement and a grant (£1,864),
- Repair of the chamber organ, also funded by an insurance settlement (£3,878),
- Final payment of retention monies for the repairs to the Lewis Chapel roof (£3,222), and
- Upgrading of the electrical control and protection equipment in the Tithe Barn (£4,656).

The net assets of the Charity at December 31, 2021 amounted to £466,597 (31/12/2020: £443,220) including freehold properties valued at £362,641 (unchanged). Having paid off all its outstanding debts, and having negotiated a settlement with the Diocese regarding the parish share, the Trust had no liabilities at year end.

Nevertheless, during the year the Charity continued to face the challenge of managing its cash flow particularly due to the reduced levels of income and the limited level of financial reserves within which it operates, contrary to its policy but reflecting current realities.

Reserves Policy

The Parochial Church Council recognises the need to hold reserves to ensure funding is available to provide continuing mission should income levels fall. Reserves are also required to meet the future maintenance programme for the Churches and Church buildings.

A minimum level of reserves also needs to be retained to ensure the PCC can meet its legal commitments should the Charity be unable to continue due to a lack of a sustainable income stream. The Officers of the PCC have established a policy whereby the unrestricted funds not designated for specific use by the PCC or invested in tangible fixed assets, ie the free reserves held by the Charity, should ideally be between three and six months of the resources expended in general funds.

The Charity is dependent on donations, grants and investment income. The economic climate remains uncertain and interest rates continue at historically low levels, both of which factors are likely to have an on-going negative impact on future income streams.

Investment Policy

Despite the continuation of historically low rates of interest, the PCC (through its Finance & General Purposes Committee) has concluded the most appropriate policy for investing funds remains to achieve the best possible rate from our bankers commensurate with maintaining the capability of rapid access to the funds in the event of a call on them.

Bankers

Lloyds Bank, 54 Cross Street, Abergavenny, Monmouthshire NP7 5HB

HSBC Bank plc, 2 Frogmore Street, Abergavenny, NP7 5AF

Barclays Bank, 57 Frogmore Street, Abergavenny, NP7 5AT

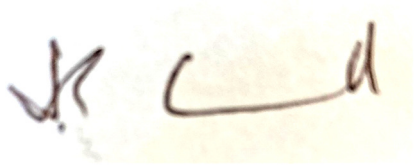
Independent Examiner

Dorrell Oliver Limited, Linden House, Monk Street, Abergavenny, Monmouthshire NP7 5NF

Professional Advisers (Historic Buildings)

Arnold Bartosch Ltd, 1 Bath Mews, Bath Parade, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire GL53 7HL

Approved by the Trustees and signed on their behalf by the Reverend John Connell



PARISH OF ABERGAVENNY PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Charity Number 1137751

Accounts

- For the year ended -

31 December 2021

DORRELL OLIVER LTD

Linden House
Monk Street
Abergavenny
Monmouthshire
NP7 5NF

PARISH OF ABERGAVENNY PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Independent Examiner's Report

Year ended 31 December 2021

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the Parish of Abergavenny Parochial Church Council
I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2021 which are set out on pages 2 to 9.

Responsibilities and basis of report
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Independent examiner's statement
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1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
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P. E. Lea FCA
Dorrell Oliver Limited
Linden House
Monk Street
Abergavenny
Monmouthshire
NP7 5NF

Date: April 2022

PARISH OF ABERGAVENNY PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL
Statement of Financial Activities
Year ended 31 December 2021

			£	£	2021 £	£	£	2020 £
INCOMING RESOURCES/RECEIPTS		Note	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total
Voluntary Income	Planned giving		43,711	-	43,711	48,448	-	48,448
	Loose Collections		6,614	-	6,614	9,098	-	9,098
	Donations		9,953	-	9,953	5,754	-	5,754
	For Mission		17,571	-	17,571	931	-	931
	Tax refunds		10,993	-	10,993	13,146	-	13,146
	Tax refunds GASDS		1,585	-	1,585	912	-	912
	VAT recovered		326	-	326	-	-	-
	Grants		1,612	-	1,612	17,600	-	17,600
	Legacies	1.4	-	-	-	151,348	-	151,348
Generated Income	Money Raising	2	6,247	-	6,247	7,529	-	7,529
	Singing Week		2,008	-	2,008	-	-	-
	Church Fees		9,215	-	9,215	13,660	-	13,660
	Tithe Barn and Priory Centre	3	15,198	-	15,198	16,007	-	16,007
Investment Income		4	27,198	-	27,198	12,538	-	12,538
Other Income	Parish Share Rebate and relief		67,937	-	67,937	1,040	-	1,040
	Clergy Leaving Gifts and Function		-	-	-	1,830	-	1,830
	HMRC Furlough Scheme		11,908	-	11,908	14,060	-	14,060
	Insurance claim (2021: Organ)		3,378	-	3,378	12,534	-	12,534
	Utilities refunds		2,525	-	2,525	5,221	-	5,221
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES/RECEIPTS			237,979	-	237,979	331,656	-	331,656
RESOURCES EXPENDED/PAYMENTS								
Support for ministry	Parish share		83,180	-	83,180	83,180	-	83,180
	Parochial expenses of clerics		2,099	-	2,099	1,119	-	1,119
Parish Activities	Maintenance of Services	5	12,667	-	12,667	15,583	-	15,583
	General Parish Expenses	6	10,403	-	10,403	10,694	-	10,694
	Tithe Barn and Priory Centre	3	43,033	-	43,033	45,681	-	45,681
Church Property	Maintenance of Churches	7	14,710	-	14,710	15,329	-	15,329
	Maintenance of other property	8	10,056	-	10,056	14,940	-	14,940
	Exceptional Expenditure	9	14,730	-	14,730	17,666	-	17,666
Grants and Financial Support	Parish	10	3,330	-	3,330	3,867	-	3,867
	Home/World		19,116	-	19,116	8,712	-	8,712
Other resources Expended	Cost of money raising	2	1,278	-	1,278	1,081	-	1,081
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED/PAYMENTS			214,602	-	214,602	217,852	-	217,852
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS			**23,377**	-	**23,377**	**113,804**	-	**113,804**
Balance brought forward	1 January		443,220	-	443,220	324,961		**324,961**
Unrealised gain on Legacy			-	-	-	4,455	-	4,455
Balance carried forward	31 December		466,597	-	466,597	443,220	-	443,220

PARISH OF ABERGAVENNY PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL
STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES
AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2021

	Notes	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	2021 Total £	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	2020 Total £
FIXED ASSETS							
Freehold Properties	11	362,641	-	362,641	362,641	-	362,641
		362,641	-	362,641	362,641	-	362,641
CURRENT ASSETS							
Cash Funds:							
Cash: Bank Deposit Accounts		57,289	-	57,289	21,012	-	21,012
Bank Current Accounts		35,006	-	35,006	32,692	-	32,692
Cash in Hand		200	-	200	200	-	200
Other Monetary Assets:							
Stock		10,000	-	10,000	10,000	-	10,000
Debtors		1,605	-	1,605	10,085	-	10,085
Portfolio from Legacy		-	-	-	155,803	-	155,803
TOTAL ASSETS		466,741	-	466,741	592,433	-	592,433
CURRENT LIABILITIES							
Amounts falling due within one year	12	(144)	-	(144)	(90,209)	-	(90,209)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		466,597	-	466,597	502,224	-	502,224
LONG TERM LIABILITIES							
Amounts falling due after more than one year	12	-	-	-	(59,004)	-	(59,004)
NET ASSETS		466,597	-	466,597	443,220	-	443,220
REPRESENTED BY:							
FUNDS							
Brought forward		443,220	-	443,220	324,961		324,961
Surplus/(deficit) for the year		23,377	-	23,377	113,804	-	113,804
Unrealised gain on legacy value		-	-	-	4,455		4,455
Carried forward	13	466,597	-	466,597	443,220	-	443,220

The financial statements were approved by the trustees on.....

.....
Trustee

Charity information
The Parish of Abergavenny Parochial Church Council (the PCC) is a UK unincorporated charity
Charity Number 1137751.

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

1.1 Basis of preparation
The accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention modified to include the revaluation of certain land and buildings.
The accounts have been prepared in accordance with applicable accounting standards, the Statement of Recommended Practice, "Accounting and Reporting by Charities", issued in March 2005 and the Charities Act 2011.

1.2 Going concern
At the time of approving the financial statements, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the PCC has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus the trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

1.3 Charitable funds
Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of their charitable objectives unless the funds have been designated for other purposes.

The accounts include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law. They do not include the accounts of church groups that owe their main affiliation to another body nor those that are informal gatherings of Church members.

1.4 Incoming resources
Income is recognised when the PCC is legally entitled to it after any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably, and it is probable that income will be received.

Cash donations are recognised on receipt. Other donations are recognised once the PCC has been notified of the donation, unless performance conditions require deferral of the amount. Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

All income is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities once the charity has entitlement to the funds, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTD.)

1.5 Tangible fixed assets
Tangible fixed assets are initially measured at cost and subsequently measured at cost or valuation, net of depreciation and any impairment losses.
Depreciation is recognised so as to write off the cost or valuation of assets over their useful lives on the following basis:

Freehold properties : no depreciation charged

The gain or loss arising on the disposal of an asset is determined as the difference between the sale proceeds and the carrying value of the asset and is credited or charged to the Statement of Financial Activities

1.6 Cash and cash equivalents
Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less.

1.7 Financial instruments
The PCC has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial instruments are recognised in the PCC balance sheet when the PCC becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

Basic financial assets
Basic financial assets, which include debtors and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

Basic financial liabilities
Basic financial liabilities, including creditors and bank loans are initially recognised at transaction price.

1.8 Taxation
The charity is exempt from tax on its charitable activities.

1.9 Stocks
Stocks have been valued at the lower of cost or net realisable value.

2. MONEY RAISING

Fund raising

	Proceeds	Costs	2021 Net	2020 Net
	£	£	£	£
St. Mary's	3,867	1,105	2,762	3,081
Christchurch	870	173	697	1,814
Other Groups	113	-	113	251
	4,850	1,278	3,572	5,146
Bookstall	847	-	847	437
Christchurch Hall income	550	-	550	865
	6,247	1,278	4,969	6,448

3. PRIORY CENTRE & TITHE BARN

	Proceeds	Costs	2021 Net	2020 Net
	£	£	£	£
Catering and Bar	2,092	1,445	647	1,212
Room Hire, Learning space and Tourist Centre	13,106	23,305	(10,199)	(10,551)
Facilities Co-ordinator salaries	-	18,283	(18,283)	(20,335)
	15,198	43,033	(27,835)	(29,674)

4. INVESTMENT INCOME

	2021	2020
	£	£
Interest	11	13
Car park rent and Prince of Wales Courtyard	13,880	12,525
Rental income -property Holywell Close	10,740	-
Income on investment encashed (from legacy)	2,567	-
	27,198	12,538

5. MAINTENANCE OF SERVICES

	2021 £	2020 £
Remuneration of Organist	8,599	9,124
Candles, Wine and Wafers	235	1,159
Choir, Organ & Bells	1,689	230
Other Churches	2,144	5,070
	12,667	15,583

6. GENERAL PARISH EXPENSES

	2021 £	2020 £
Sundry expenditure	878	902
Clergy Leaving gifts and function	-	2,435
Singing Week	2,277	-
Printing and Stationery	274	533
Postage	494	344
Vicars PA	6,480	6,480
	10,403	10,694

7. MAINTENANCE OF CHURCHES

	2021 £	2020 £
Light and Heat	6,986	6,947
Insurance	4,434	3,483
General repairs	3,290	4,899
	14,710	15,329

8. MAINTENANCE OF OTHER PROPERTY

		2021 £	2020 £
Outgoings Vicarages:	St Mary's	1,811	2,363
	Holy Trinity	-	2,302
4 Holywell Close	Outgoings	5,378	4,005
	Loan interest	521	2,065
Outgoings Christchurch Hall		1,350	3,697
Car park and Prince of Wales Courtyard		630	438
Garden of Rest		366	70
		10,056	14,940

9. EXCEPTIONAL EXPENDITURE

	2021	2020
	£	£
North aisle roof	1,864	13,034
North Walkway	-	174
North Transept	1,110	-
Boilers	-	330
Chamber organ repairs	3,878	-
Tithe Barn electrical upgrade	4,656	4,128
Lewis Chapel roof	3,222	-
	14,730	17,666

The North roof works were funded by insurance claims made in respect of storm damage suffered spring 2020.

10. MISSION PARISH

	£	£
Holywell Community	-	1,887
Donation shared Other Churches	60	-
Magazines, notices etc.	3,270	1,980
	3,330	3,867

11. FREEHOLD PROPERTIES

	Cost	Estimated Value	Total
	£	£	£
4 Holywell Close, Abergavenny	260,889	-	260,889
The Priory Meadow, Abergavenny	-	25,000	25,000
Tithe Barn	76,752	-	76,752
	337,641	25,000	362,641

12. LOANS

Due within one year

Included within amounts due within 1 year are parishioners loans of £NIL (2020: £5,500) which are repayable upon demand.

Due after more than one year	2021	2020
	£	£
Loan re: Property Holywell Close	-	59,004
	-	59,004

The Loan for Holywell Close property was partially repaid in a previous year from the proceeds of a legacy, and subsequently repaid in full in Spring 2021 from the proceeds of a legacy bequeathed in 2020.

13. Funds

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total £
Fund Balances at 31 December 2021 are represented by:			
Fixed assets	362,641	-	362,641
Current assets	104,100	-	104,100
Creditors:			
Amounts due within one year	(144)	-	(144)
	466,597	-	466,597

14. Trustees
Mrs M Pratt, the spouse of one of the trustees, received remuneration as Vicars PA during the year of £6,480 (2020:£6,480).
Mr S Pratt, the son of one of the trustees, received remuneration as an administrator at the Priory centre and Tithe barn during the year.

15. Employees
The average number of persons employed by the PCC during the year was 3. (2020: 3).

16. Related parties
There were no disclosable related party transactions during the year (2020 -none).

PARISH OF ABERGAVENNY PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Independent Examiner's Report

Year ended 31 December 2021

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the Parish of Abergavenny Parochial Church Council
I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2021 which are set out on pages 2 to 9.

Responsibilities and basis of report
As the charity's trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Act and in carrying out my independent examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement
I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the independent examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

P. E. Lea FCA
Dorrell Oliver Limited
Linden House
Monk Street
Abergavenny
Monmouthshire
NP7 5NF

Date: April 2022

ABERGAVENNY MINISTRY AREA

England & Wales - Charity number 1137751

Accounts

PARISH OF ABERGAVENNY PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Charity number: 1137751

Annual Report and Financial Statements
for the year ending 31 December 2020

TRUSTEES' REPORT

The trustees have pleasure in presenting their report and the financial statements of the charity for the year ending December 31, 2020. The organisational structure, administration details and governance of the charity are set out later in this report while the activities of the church form the first part.

Summary

This year was one of great change on two fronts – the resignation of both stipendiary ministers as they were called to continue their Christian service within the Church of England, and the Covid-19 pandemic, which led to the closing of our churches for many months and the suspension of the Holywell Community. However, the Parish continued to offer worship, both in person where possible, and online at least twice a week from March to the end of the year. Pastoral visits moved online or via the telephone and we were able to continue with our mission work, albeit in a more limited way.

Interviews were held for the position of incumbent at the end of November and subsequently the Revd John Connell, Vicar of Rumney, was appointed. He will take up his position in 2021, when he will also become Ministry Area Leader after the Abergavenny and Govilon groups of parishes join together to become a ministry area.



Our priests at the start of the year

The following report on the churches' activities demonstrate what the charity has done during the year to carry out these purposes for the public benefit.

Activities

The Parish continued to endeavour to enable the wider community to live out their faith through wide-ranging activities, which can be split broadly into four categories:

- worship, prayer and pastoral care;
- mission and outreach;
- special events;
- fundraising, fellowship and hosting events.

Worship, prayer and pastoral care

As well as the usual weekday and Sunday worship during the year, whether online or in-person, there were a number of special services and events, including:

- In January, St Mary's again hosted the town's ecumenical services for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, with people from across the area's Christian churches taking part
- Also in January, St Mary's and Monmouthshire County Council jointly hosted the Monmouthshire Holocaust Memorial Day Service, on the 75th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz, with the event attended by local schoolchildren, Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant, the High Sheriff, and the Chairpersons of Monmouthshire, Carmarthenshire and Gloucestershire County Councils as well as the Mayor of Abergavenny.

Our Lent offering was possible for the first four weeks of the season, with parishioners studying a course exploring *Church & Kingdom*. The Priory also hosted the Diocesan event *God Who Speaks*, with the Diocesan Spirituality Team, in preparation for Lent.

The Church's work with children included All Age Worship every other Sunday, school assemblies and Little Footprints, a parent and toddler group held every week during term time. These continued until the churches were closed as we went into the first lockdown – they were unable to resume during the rest of the year.

Acts of worship, including some of the Benedictine Offices, were celebrated on almost every day of the year until mid-March, and in-person pastoral care continued throughout the first 12 weeks of the year, in particular, the visiting of, and on occasions taking Communion to, parishioners who through sickness or age were unable to come to church. After March, this pastoral care took place online and by telephone and it was not possible to take Communion out to the housebound.



A new look for St Mary's as social distancing came into effect as the church re-opened in September

The churches closed for public worship in March, with Mothering Sunday being the first Sunday when no services were held. Despite the hope expressed at the time that this would only be for three weeks, it wasn't until September 13 that we were able to join together again to worship collectively in person. In April, HRH The Prince of Wales, Patron of St Mary's Development Trust, wrote to the latter expressing his support during the pandemic.

After risk assessments were written and approved and St Mary's re-ordered, the churches opened with permission for up to 40 people to worship at St Mary's and up to 30 at Christchurch with one service taking place each Sunday morning at each church, and, additionally, Evensong on Sunday and Eucharist on every other Wednesday at St Mary's.

Private prayer became possible at both St Mary's and Christchurch from the end of June – this continued at St Mary's in parallel with public worship while Christchurch chose to concentrate on Sunday opening when this became possible.

On October 23, Wales went into another lockdown and our churches closed for both public worship and private prayer, remaining so until November 15, although it was possible to hold a short, outdoor service for Remembrance Sunday the previous week. They remained open until Advent 4, but then the churchwardens, in conjunction with the Revd Jeff Pearse and Area Dean the Revd Julian Gray, took the difficult decision to close again so we were unable to celebrate the Nativity of Our Lord in church.

While the churches were closed, worship moved online, with a Sunday and a midweek service being broadcast each week on both the Abergavenny Anglican Churches Together Facebook page and St Mary's website. This was made technically possible in the first instance by the Revd Tom Bates-Bourne and, after he left, by churchwarden and director of music Tim Pratt. The online All Souls service included a scroll of the names of those who died during the previous 12 months, as well as parishioners' loved ones.



Streaming an online service

In addition to our regular services, we continued, when able, to enable our community to celebrate and thank God in the milestones of the journey through life. This year, as expected, these life event services were much reduced, with two baptisms, one wedding and 25 funerals.

Ecumenically, the parish participated fully in the Abergavenny Council of Churches, although meetings were via Zoom and this year's Walking Nativity was cancelled.

The number recorded on the Electoral roll for both churches on December 31, 2020 was 184.

Mission and outreach work

Much of the in-person mission and outreach work of the parish was curtailed by the pandemic. However, members of the congregations supported Abergavenny Food Bank, shopped for neighbours, and kept in touch with other worshippers, particularly the elderly and those shielding or ill.

Members of our Mothers' Union continued to volunteer at a contact centre for children suffering family break-up.

We were able to collect for the Shoebox Appeal, sending 70 boxes to people in Eastern Europe. Nearer home, we assembled Christmas parcels of toiletries and small gifts for 'looked after' older teenagers and young adults who are living on their own.

Members of the church continued to be involved with the 7Corners project in Abergavenny, which aims to provide a safe place for young people to meet, albeit only online during lockdown.

The church's mission and outreach stretched beyond the four walls of the churches or even the town, with our online presence. As well as the online services, our website (stmarys-priory.org) featured sermons from festivals during the year while

our Facebook and Twitter accounts kept people up to date with what was going on at the Priory. There continues to be a great deal of interest in the work of our artist-in-residence Jeremy Thomas as he completes his paintings of the life of Christ.

Music, bells and visits

The work of the church is greatly enhanced by St Mary's Priory Choir, under the musical directorship of Tim Pratt. As for everyone, it was a difficult year for the choir, who were within a few days of Palm Sunday when the first lockdown was announced and who were bitterly disappointed that all the preparation they had put into the music for Holy Week and Easter came to naught.

However, within a few weeks, the choir started to use technology to try to keep things going. Pre-recorded choir practice videos were shared on our Facebook page and website, and the younger choir members had their weekly singing lessons conducted via Zoom; they also started to record remotely both anthems and hymns. This involved each chorister singing their part to a "click" track and recording the result on their phone, which they sent to Mr Pratt, who then mixed them together to create a "virtual" choir. As the weeks drifted into months, the choir became more skilled in producing these recordings, and by the end of 2020 had created in excess of 100 recordings for both Sunday and weekday services.

In the autumn we were able to resume socially distanced practice in groups of six and were even able to provide singing at the Advent Carol service and the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols. Sadly, shortly after this, we entered lockdown again.

It wasn't possible for the church bells to be rung for services or by visiting bands during lockdown, although they were when the church re-opened.

St Mary's continued to be visited by people from all over the world and from nearer home during the first 12 weeks of the year, although the building was only open for a very limited number of visitors for a few weeks in late summer.

SPECIAL ACTIVITIES

Fellowship, Fundraising and Hosting Events

In January, the Bishop of the Highveld, the Rt Revd Charles Mthetheleli, who was in Wales for the consecration of the new Bishop of Monmouth, the Rt Revd Cherry Vann, visited St Mary's. He met our parish priests and viewed the life of Christ paintings with artist-in-residence Jeremy Thomas.

The many events planned for the rest of the year – from celebrating the 450th anniversary of Jesus College, Oxford, (the tomb of its first principal Dr David Lewis is in the church) to hosting the town's 75th anniversary of VE Day, and from art and book festivals to concerts – were cancelled because of the pandemic. The Priory Centre did, however, continue to be used by the Blood Donation service.



Artist-in-residence Jeremy Thomas, left, with the Bishop of the Highveld the Rt Revd Charles Mthetheleli

Reference and administration details

St Mary's Priory Church and its daughter church, Christchurch, is in the Parish of Abergavenny, part of Abergavenny Ministry Area and Deanery of Abergavenny and the Diocese of Monmouth in the Church of Wales.

Incumbent and ministers

The Revd Canon Mark Soady continued to serve St Mary's Priory Church with Christchurch as Vicar; St Peter's, Llanwenarth Citra, as Rector; and Holy Trinity Church, Abergavenny, as Priest-in-Charge, as well as Prior of the Holywell Community until he left on March 31, having been appointed Rector of Tarleton & Rufford, in Lancashire, and as Secretary of the Committee of Anglican Religious Communities in England.

The Revd Tom Bates-Bourne continued to serve as Sub-Prior and Assistant Priest of Abergavenny, until he left on August 16 to become Associate Priest in the Benefice of Grimethorpe with Brierley, the Benefice of Ryhill and the Benefice of South Kirkby (Leeds).

The Reverend Jeff Pearse successfully completed his curacy and now serves the parish as a self-supporting Assistant Priest. His ministry and care have enabled the parish to continue our work during the interregnum.

For the first few months of the year, the Holywell Community had two members, Brother Nicolas and Brother Nathaniel. However, the first lockdown led to the Parochial Church Council making the difficult decision to suspend the Community until

such time as their work in the community and church could continue. Br Nicolas moved to London and Br Nathaniel returned to his homeland of New Zealand.

The worship in the parish was made possible through the on-going contribution of our Licensed Lay Minister Gaynor Parfitt; retired ministers the Revd Malcolm Lane, the Revd Ian Aveson and the Revd Jeremy Dowding.



The Revd Canon Mark Soady, left, hands back his Holywell Community pectoral cross to the Revd Tom Bates-Bourne at his last service before moving to Lancashire

Objectives and activities

We review our aims, objectives and activities each year, looking at what we have achieved and the outcomes of our work in the previous twelve months. The review looks at the success of each key activity and benefits of activities in a wide variety of cultural areas. The review also helps us ensure our aims, objectives and activities remained focussed on our stated objective.

When reviewing our aims and objectives and in planning and considering our activities for the year, the incumbent and the Parochial Church Council (PCC) have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and, in particular, the specific guidance on charities for the advancement of religion.

The objective of the Charity is promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church. Encouraging and facilitating the practice of the Christian Faith by the Churches includes the following – these remain our objectives and we aim to fulfil all of them when allowed to do so under Covid-19 regulations:

- Conducting regular Christian worship in both Churches.
- The celebration of the Holy Eucharist on seven days each week at St Mary's Priory Church.
- Marriages, funerals and baptisms.
- The provision and maintenance of the fabric of St Mary's Priory Church, Abergavenny, and of Christchurch, Abergavenny and their associated buildings.
- Opening St Mary's daily for the public to enter and benefit from personal spiritual contemplation and to be able to view the medieval monuments and learn about the Benedictine foundation of the Church and its place in the history of Christianity and of Abergavenny.
- The maintenance of Christian burial places.
- Promoting the study of Christian teaching, practices and Scriptures.
- The provision of means and encouragement to promote fellowship within the membership of the Churches and the wider community.

In addition to the above, Christian devotional acts and outreach work are carried out, when permitted, including:

- Visiting the sick.
- Administering the Sacraments to those unable to attend regular acts of worship, and to the sick and dying.
- Supporting pastoral work.
- Fostering ecumenical links between differing Christian denominations.
- Supporting the work of other charities through, among others, the Mothers' Union, the Bridge to Cross Trust (7Corners), the Rachel Herbert Trust, and AACT's Mission and Outreach Committee.

The work of the Church is governed by safeguarding policies of the Church in Wales, responsible adults are required to have DBS checks and the joint parishes have appointed a safeguarding co-ordinator who liaises with the Provincial safeguarding officer if necessary.

Further achievements in the year

Monies were raised by freewill offertory and by the limited number of visitors. These were used to support the work and administration of the churches and wider mission, where possible. Volunteers have donated their time to help at each act of worship to support the clergy and to ensure the churches are Covid-19 safe. They have stewarded the churches, re-ordered the seating, run booking systems, telephoned members of the congregations and distributed pew leaflets, pastoral letters and magazines.

The Parish will continue with acts of worship and pastoral care during 2021 and will continue actively to try to increase the Electoral Roll, through our mission work in the community.

The Trustees

The trustees who served the Charity during the period from the Annual Vestry Meeting on March 17, 2020, until the end of the year (unless otherwise stated) were as follows:

The Revd Canon Mark Soady	Vicar (Chairman from January 1, until the end of March, when he left to take up a position in Lancashire)
The Revd Tom Bates-Bourne	Assistant Priest (Chairman from April 1 to August 16 when he left to take up a position in Yorkshire)
The Revd Jeff Pearse	Self-supporting Assistant Priest (Chairman from August 16 to end of year)
Mr Robin Alldred	
Mrs Sheila Davies	Assistant People's Warden, Representative on the Deanery Conference
Mr Lyndon Evans	Assistant Vicar's Warden at St Mary's (until December 17)
Mrs Catherine Jones	Assistant People's Warden
Mr Steven Lamerton	Gift Aid Treasurer
Mrs Jenny Lloyd	
Mrs Eunice Marsh	PCC Secretary until the Annual Vestry Meeting, thereafter PCC member
Mrs Wendy Pendry	
Mr Tim Pratt	Parish Vicar's Warden
Mrs Patricia Ransome	
Mr Robin Smith	St Mary's Treasurer
Ms Ann Tuxworth	PCC Secretary after the Annual Vestry Meeting
Mrs Sheila Woodhouse	Vicar's warden at Christchurch, Christchurch Treasurer
Ms Caroline Woollard	Parish People's Warden, representative on the Diocesan Conference and member of the Governing Body of the Church in Wales, Lay Canon of Newport Cathedral

In addition, Mr Sam Hunt and Mrs Jenny Macpherson served as Trustees from January 2020 to the Annual Vestry Meeting.
Eunice Marsh retired as PCC Secretary at the Annual Vestry Meeting, having held the post for 22 years. The Revd Mark Soady thanked her for her hard work and loyalty throughout that time. Mrs Marsh will continue to serve as an elected member of the PCC. Ms Ann Tuxworth was then elected as PCC Secretary.



Eunice Marsh is presented with a gift by Canon Mark Soady as she retires from being PPC Secretary

Structure, governance and management

The Parish of Abergavenny is part of the Diocese of Monmouth within the Church in Wales. The Church in Wales is a Province within the Anglican Communion and, as such, exists to advance the Christian Religion through world-wide mission. The object of the Parochial Church Council is to ensure that the life and work of the Church within the Parish helps to fulfil that mission, both locally and more widely.

The Representative Body of the Church in Wales holds the land and property of the Church in Wales, including St Mary's Priory Church, Christchurch and other church buildings, and including the Garden of Rest at St Mary's, and their contents. The Representative Body is an exempt Charity and was set up under Section 13(2) of the Welsh Churches Act 1914. It acts on behalf of the Province in paying the stipends of the full-time clergy, and administers the Church in Wales scheme of covenanted and gift aid giving, recovering tax on behalf of the parishes.

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is not a body corporate, its composition, procedure and powers being regulated by the Constitution of the Church in Wales as amended from time to time by its Governing Body set up under Section 13(1) of the Welsh Church Act 1914. Elections are held at an Annual Vestry Meeting which must take place on or before 30th April each year. All persons whose names are entered on the Electoral Roll are entitled to vote and stand for election. Before assuming office, every member of the PCC publicly makes a declaration that he or she will be bound by the Constitution. The Members and Officers of the PCC, including the Incumbent, on appointment, become Trustees of the Parish of Abergavenny Parochial Church Council.



Members of the congregations and visitors to the Tithe Barn added palms to Jeremy Thomas' painting of Palm Sunday

The PCC also appoints the Priory Trustees, a body set up under a 1925 Deed of Trust to administer certain lands and properties held by the Representative Body as Custodian Trustees on behalf of and for the benefit of the Parish. The Trustees report to the PCC and their accounts are kept separate but consolidated with those of St Mary's and Christchurch within the Charity Accounts presented with this report.

Property administered by the Priory Trustees includes the Priory Centre, the Tithe Barn and the Holywell Community House. The latter two have been purchased in recent years and their freehold values are shown in the Accounts of this Charity. The properties also include the Priory Meadow, which is leased to Monmouthshire County Council and is used as an extension of their Swan Meadow Car Park

Commercial Operations in the Priory Centre and the Tithe Barn are also managed and controlled by the Trustees. Unfortunately both the University Health Board and the Canolfan y Ddegwm group gave notice to terminate their use of parts of the Tithe Barn with effect from March 31 and this, coupled with the pandemic lockdowns precluding external organisations arranging meetings, conferences and exhibitions, has significantly reduced the income of the Trustees.

Risk Review

The PCC has conducted its own review of the major risks to which the Charity is exposed and systems have been established to mitigate those risks. The risks facing the Charity include the state of repair of the Churches and the financial requirements to meet its stated activities, including payment of its Annual Parish Share, bearing in mind the fall in the numbers of regular worshippers and the reduction in regular giving. The structure of the Churches is continually monitored by the Finance & General Purposes Committee and the Church's professional advisers and the finances are controlled by careful budgeting together with encouragement and appeals to the worshippers and visitors.

The Trustees continue to develop an evacuation plan in the event of a major incident. This plan will include the safe removal of both people and major artefacts.

There have been no serious incidents or other matters relating to this charity over the previous financial year that we should have brought to the attention of the Charity Commissioners but have not.

Organisational Structure

The PCC is responsible inter-alia for promoting the mission of the Church, the parochial budget and all expenditure thereunder, the care and maintenance of the fabric of the Churches and associated buildings and of the Garden of Remembrance, and for action on any other matter referred to it in accordance with the constitution. The PCC is also the normal channel of communication between the parishioners and the Bishop of the diocese. All members of the PCC are volunteers.

In addition to the election of members, the Officers, i.e. The People's Warden and the Assistant People's Warden are elected at the annual Easter Vestry; the Vicar appoints the Vicar's Warden and two Vicar's assistant wardens at the same meeting. New representatives are told of their responsibilities and of the issues facing the Churches by existing representatives, and receive such additional training as required. Other Officers, including the Secretary, Treasurer and Gift Aid Treasurer are appointed at the first meeting of the PCC after the Vestry Meeting.

As indicated, members of the PCC also serve as representatives on the Deanery and Diocesan Conferences and the Governing Body of the Church in Wales. St Mary's and Christchurch are active members of Abergavenny Council of Churches and volunteers help run mission events in Abergavenny, including activities for Christian Aid Fortnight, the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, Easter and Christmas.

The Churches are run entirely by volunteers as the clergy are remunerated by another charity from the Parish Share payments made by all the Churches in the Diocese. Without the work of these volunteers, who, for example, enable St Mary's to be kept open every day for members of the public to visit and to pray, the Churches would not function.

As of December 2020 the Charity employed three people (two full-time equivalent), although the church did take part in the Government's furlough scheme (see below).

Committee structure

The PCC met four times, either in person (before end of March) or via Zoom, and, in between, there were meetings of a number of committees which support the work of the Churches, including:

- The Mission and Outreach Committee (members of which are from all four churches in the incumbency working under the auspices of AACT) – which met in person at the beginning of the year.
- The Finance and General Purposes Committee, which met in person and online.
- The St Mary's Co-ordinating Committee, set up as a liaison committee between the work of the church and that of the Tithe Barn/Priory Centre, which met online.
- The Priory Trustees met online.



Assembling gifts for teenagers and young adults—one of the church's outreach projects

FABRIC

The tight financial situation of the Charity noted in our previous annual report has persisted throughout 2020, exacerbated by the Covid-19 Pandemic. For the second year running few repair schemes were embarked on during the year except those dictated by immediate requirements to maintain the integrity of the fabric of our various buildings.

In the period between lockdowns, as they applied in Wales, moves were made to undertake the repairs to the North Aisle, North Slope roof where a significant number of slates had been dislodged during Storms Ciara and Dennis in February and March. In the event we were unable to commence work before the second lockdown was imposed and the task was completed in January/February 2021. The presence of the extensive scaffolding, required for the roof repair, created the opportunity to complete the outstanding repairs to, and refurbishment of, the gutters and downpipes serving this roof slope.

The storm damage repairs, which eventually involved replacing and/or resetting 140 slates, were fully funded by our Insurers (less our excess) and the repairs to the water goods were largely funded through a grant from Allchurches Trust. Although the work took place in early 2021, the funding and expenditure has been included in the 2020 Accounts incorporated in this Report.

One other scheme completed in 2020 was the installation of a replacement boiler in the Tithe Barn. The previous boiler was unreliable and life expired.

Some progress was made during the year towards undertaking one of the major projects detailed last year involving the pinning of the cracks that have developed in the walls of the turret staircase in the north east corner of the North Transept and the underpinning of the adjacent external buttress. The cracks continue to be monitored when the building can be accessed. Faculty approval for the repair has now been granted and a detailed two stage process has been proposed by our Structural Engineers: A Development phase to monitor the cracks and map in detail the surrounding stonework to create a plan for the repairs followed by the Delivery phase.

There has been no progress in 2020 regarding the other major project detailed in last year's Report for repairs to the bulging Grade 1 Listed wall between the Church Forecourt and the Prince of Wales Courtyard.

At Christchurch, work updating the kitchen of the Hall was carried out, including repairs to the floor and walls and installation of new cupboards and worktops.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Results

Reflecting the lack of services possible for substantial periods during the year, including both the Easter and Christmas periods, and the limited attendance possible at services during the period between the lockdowns, the direct voluntary contributions received during acts of worship, excluding tax reclaimed through Gift Aid, amounted to £57,546 (2019: £91,413). Another significant contributory factor to the reduction was the much lower number of funerals held in the Churches.

Other general income, including that generated from fundraising activities but excluding legacies, was reduced to £122,762 (2019: £212,381), the decrease reflecting the almost total closure of the Tithe Barn and Priory Centre from the middle of March. The figure also included £14,060 recovered through the Government's "Furlough" scheme (meaning we were able to continue employing all our three members of staff), and a £10,000 Business Disruption Grant received from Monmouthshire County Council.

During the year the Trust was notified that under the terms of the Will of the late Gerald Jones and following the death of his Mother, Irene Jones, the Church had received a most generous bequest of £151,348, in the form of a Bond Portfolio. Soon after the news was received the value of the Bond dropped significantly and the Trustees decided to leave it with the Solicitors until its value was restored. In the event the Bond was surrendered, and the funds received in early 2021. Meanwhile, in accordance with their previously recorded policies, the Trustees minuted that the legacy funds were to be "Designated" to specific purposes only and were not to be used to cover general expenses.



Being filmed for the Church in Wales Centenary video

A total of £17,600 (2019: £26,946) was received by way of Grants from a number of external agencies including the £10,000 Business Disruption Grant noted above. In addition a Grant of £5,000 was received from the Additional Curates Society (on behalf of the Confraternity of the Blessed Sacrament) towards the stipend of the Sub-Prior.

The Charity received no other grants for services delivered, from central or local government during the year. However, Welsh Assembly and Local Authority groups, along with the NHS (including the Wales Blood Service), are users of the meeting and event accommodation provided in the Priory Centre and Tithe Barn.

Further repayments of the loans received from members of the congregation in March 2018 were made in 2020. Of the £12,000 outstanding at 1 January 2020, £6,500 was repaid, meaning the loans outstanding at 31 December 2020 were £5,500.

The level of general expenditure, excluding exceptional items, amounted to £200,186 (2019: 266,057), the reduction reflecting the much lower levels of activity of both the religious and more secular activities undertaken across the Parish.

The Parish Share payable to the Diocese during the year was £83,180 (2018: £80,425) including the Charity's contribution to the Stipend payable by the Diocese to the Sub-Prior which continued to be levied by the Diocese even after his departure. As a result of the significant reduction in the Charity's income during the year the Parish was only able to make a contribution each Quarter, after the first Quarter had been paid in full meaning that by the year end the payment shortfall, including that incurred in previous years, had increased to £62,585.84 (2019: £15,241).

Expenditure on exceptional items during the year amounted to £17,666 (2019: £38,502) including two significant projects detailed in the Fabric section of this Report:

Costs associated with the repairs to the North Aisle North Slope Roof and associated water goods, mostly funded through an insurance settlement and a Grant (£13,034)

Installation of a new boiler in the Tithe Barn (£4,128)

The net assets of the Charity at December 31, 2020, amounted to £443,220 (31/12/2019: £324,961) including freehold properties valued at £362,641 (unchanged). The principal liabilities remain the shortfall on the Parish Share, the loan on the Holywell Community House (£59,004), which is due for repayment in September 2023 and the £5,500 in outstanding loans received from members of the congregation.

One of the biggest challenges faced by the Charity during the year has again been the management of its cash flow particularly due to the reduced levels of income and the limited level of financial reserves within which it operates, contrary to its policy but reflecting current realities.

Reserves Policy

The Parochial Church Council recognises the need to hold reserves to ensure funding is available to provide continuing mission should income levels fall. Reserves are also required to meet the future maintenance programme for the Churches and Church buildings.

A minimum level of reserves also needs to be retained to ensure the PCC can meet its legal commitments should the Charity be unable to continue due to a lack of a sustainable income stream. The Officers of the PCC have established a policy whereby the unrestricted funds not designated for specific use by the PCC or invested in tangible fixed assets, ie the free reserves held by the Charity, should ideally be between three and six months of the resources expended in general funds.

The Charity is dependent on donations, grants and investment income. The economic climate remains uncertain and interest rates continue at historically low levels, both of which factors are likely to have an on-going negative impact on future income streams.

Investment Policy

Despite the continuation of historically low rates of interest, the PCC (through its Finance & General Purposes Committee) has

concluded the most appropriate policy for investing funds remains to achieve the best possible rate from our bankers commensurate with maintaining the capability of rapid access to the funds in the event of a call on them.

Bankers

Lloyds Bank, 54 Cross Street, Abergavenny, Monmouthshire NP7 5HB

HSBC Bank plc, 2 Frogmore Street, Abergavenny, NP7 5AF

Barclays Bank, 57 Frogmore Street, Abergavenny, NP7 5AT

Independent Examiner

Dorrell Oliver Limited, Linden House, Monk Street, Abergavenny, Monmouthshire NP7 5NF

Professional Advisers (Historic Buildings)

Arnold Bartosch Ltd, 1 Bath Mews, Bath Parade, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire GL53 7HL

Approved by the Trustees and signed on their behalf by the Revd Jeff Pearse on 12th May, 2021

Jeffery A Pearse.



Doves displayed on the locked gates of St Mary's Priory Church as a symbol of hope during lockdown. They were made by Simon Meredith, the son of former lay reader the late David Meredith. The idea spread throughout the town and province with doves appearing in windows of shops, homes and churches.

PARISH OF ABERGAVENNY PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Charity Number 1137751

Accounts

- For the year ended -

31 December 2020

DORRELL OLIVER LTD

Linden House
Monk Street
Abergavenny
Monmouthshire
NP7 5NF

PARISH OF ABERGAVENNY PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Independent Examiner's Report

Year ended 31 December 2020

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the Parish of Abergavenny Parochial Church Council
I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2020 which are set out on pages 2 to 9.

Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner:
The trustees of the Parish of AbergavennyParochial Church Council (the PCC) (trustees) are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed. The gross income in the PCC accounts exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of the ICAEW.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act); and
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report
My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the Parochial Church Council and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the Parochial Church Council concerning such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a "true and fair" view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent Examiner's Statement
In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect, the requirements:
   - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
   - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act

have not been met; or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

P. E. Lea FCA
Dorrell Oliver Limited
Linden House
Monk Street
Abergavenny
Monmouthshire
NP7 5NF

Date: 10-5-2021

PARISH OF ABERGAVENNY PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL
Statement of Financial Activities
Year ended 31 December 2020

			£	£	2020 £	£	£	2019 £
INCOMING RESOURCES/RECEIPTS		Note	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total
Voluntary income	Planned giving		48,448	-	48,448	53,863	-	53,863
	Loose Collections		9,098	-	9,098	37,550	-	37,550
	Donations		5,754	-	5,754	13,174	-	13,174
	For Mission		931	-	931	2,572	-	2,572
	Tax refunds		13,146	-	13,146	15,515	-	15,515
	Tax refunds GASDS		912	-	912	2,942	-	2,942
	VAT recovered		-	-	-	9,179	-	9,179
	Grants		17,600	-	17,600	26,946	-	26,946
	Legacies	1.4	151,348	-	151,348	2,000	-	2,000
Generated income	Money Raising	2	7,529	-	7,529	22,709	-	22,709
	Singing Week		-	-	-	8,947	-	8,947
	Church Fees		13,660	-	13,660	32,397	-	32,397
	Tithe Barn and Priory Centre	3	16,007	-	16,007	56,444	-	56,444
Investment income		4	12,538	-	12,538	14,856	-	14,856
Other income	Parish Share Rebate		1,040	-	1,040	4,021	-	4,021
	Priory House Company Liquidation		-	-	-	679	-	679
	Clergy Leaving Gifts and Function		1,830	-	1,830	-	-	-
	HMRC Furlough Scheme		14,060	-	14,060	-	-	-
	Insurance claim		12,534	-	12,534	-	-	-
	Utilities refunds		5,221	-	5,221	-	-	-
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES/RECEIPTS			331,656	-	331,656	303,794	-	303,794
RESOURCES EXPENDED/PAYMENTS								
Support for ministry	Parish share		83,180	-	83,180	80,425	-	80,425
	Parochial expenses of clerics		1,119	-	1,119	4,672	-	4,672
Parish Activities	Maintenance of Services	5	15,583	-	15,583	20,785	-	20,785
	General Parish Expenses	6	10,694	-	10,694	20,386	-	20,386
	Tithe Barn and Priory Centre	3	45,681	-	45,681	62,103	-	62,103
Church Property	Maintenance of Churches	7	15,329	-	15,329	15,578	-	15,578
	Maintenance of other property	8	14,940	-	14,940	16,283	-	16,283
	Exceptional Expenditure	9	17,666	-	17,666	38,502	-	38,502
Grants and Financial Support	Parish	10	3,867	-	3,867	9,260	-	9,260
	Home/World		8,712	-	8,712	31,120	-	31,120
Other resources Expended	Cost of money raising	2	1,081	-	1,081	5,445	-	5,445
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED/PAYMENTS			217,852	-	217,852	304,559	-	304,559
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS			**113,804**	**-**	**113,804**	**(765)**	**-**	**(765)**
Balance brought forward	1 January		324,961	-	324,961	324,191	1,535	**325,726**
Transfer Between Funds			-	-	-	1,535	(1,535)	-
Unrealised gain on Legacy			4,455	-	4,455	-	-	-
Balance carried forward	31 December		443,220	-	443,220	324,961	-	324,961

PARISH OF ABERGAVENNY PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL
STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES
AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2019

	Notes	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	2020 Total £	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	2019 Total £
FIXED ASSETS							
Freehold Properties	11	362,641	-	362,641	362,641	-	362,641
		362,641	-	362,641	362,641	-	362,641
CURRENT ASSETS							
Cash Funds:							
Cash: Bank Deposit Accounts		21,012	-	21,012	9,932	-	9,932
Bank Current Accounts		32,692	-	32,692	45,127	-	45,127
Cash in Hand		200	-	200	200	-	200
Other Monetary Assets:							
Stock		10,000	-	10,000	9,600	-	9,600
Debtors		10,085	-	10,085	6,833	-	6,833
Portfolio from Legacy		155,803		155,803	-		-
TOTAL ASSETS		592,433	-	592,433	434,333	-	434,333
CURRENT LIABILITIES							
Amounts falling due within one year	12	(90,209)	-	(90,209)	(50,368)	-	(50,368)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		502,224	-	502,224	383,965	-	383,965
LONG TERM LIABILITIES							
Amounts falling due after more than one year	12	(59,004)	-	(59,004)	(59,004)	-	(59,004)
NET ASSETS		443,220	-	443,220	324,961	-	324,961
REPRESENTED BY:							
FUNDS							
Brought forward		324,961	-	324,961	324,191	1,535	325,726
Surplus/(deficit) for the year		113,804	-	113,804	(765)	-	(765)
Transfer between funds		-	-	-	1,535	(1,535)	-
Unrealised gain on leagacy value		4,455	-	4,455	-	-	-
Carried forward	13	443,220	-	443,220	324,961	-	324,961

The financial statements were approved by the trustees on 12-4-2021

Robin C. Smith
.....
Trustee

Charity information
The Parish of Abergavenny Parochial Church Council (the PCC) is a UK unincorporated charity Charity Number 1137751.

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

1.1 Basis of preparation
The accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with applicable accounting standards, the Statement of Recommended Practice, "Accounting and Reporting by Charities", issued in March 2005 and the Charities Act 2011.

1.2 Going concern
At the time of approving the financial statements, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the PCC has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus the trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

1.3 Charitable funds
Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of their charitable objectives unless the funds have been designated for other purposes.

The accounts include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law. They do not include the accounts of church groups that owe their main affiliation to another body nor those that are informal gatherings of Church members.

1.4 Incoming resources
Income is recognised when the PCC is legally entitled to it after any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably, and it is probable that income will be received.

Cash donations are recognised on receipt. Other donations are recognised once the PCC has been notified of the donation, unless performance conditions require deferral of the amount. Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

All income is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities once the charity has entitlement to the funds, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTD.)

1.5 Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are initially measured at cost and subsequently measured at cost or valuation, net of depreciation and any impairment losses.
Depreciation is recognised so as to write off the cost or valuation of assets over their useful lives on the following basis:

Freehold properties : no depreciation charged

The gain or loss arising on the disposal of an asset is determined as the difference between the sale proceeds and the carrying value of the asset and is credited or charged to the Statement of Financial Activities

1.6 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less.

1.7 Financial instruments

The PCC has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial instruments are recognised in the PCC balance sheet when the PCC becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

Basic financial assets

Basic financial assets, which include debtors and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

Basic financial liabilities

Basic financial liabilities, including creditors and bank loans are initially recognised at transaction price.

1.8 Taxation

The charity is exempt from tax on its charitable activities.

1.9 Stocks

Stocks have been valued at the lower of cost or net realisable value.

2. MONEY RAISING

			2020	2019
Fund raising				
	Proceeds	Costs	Net	Net
	£	£	£	£
St. Mary's	3,901	820	3,081	8,340
Christchurch	1,860	46	1,814	4,654
Other Groups	436	185	251	612
	6,197	1,051	5,146	13,606
Bookstall	467	30	437	1,785
Christchurch Hall income	865	-	865	1,873
	7,529	1,081	6,448	17,264

3. PRIORY CENTRE & TITHE BARN

			2020	2019
	Proceeds	Costs	Net	Net
	£	£	£	£
Catering and Bar	5,605	4,393	1,212	2,687
Room Hire, Learning space and Tourist Centre	10,402	20,953	(10,551)	12,126
Facilities Co-ordinator salary	-	20,335	(20,335)	(20,472)
	16,007	45,681	(29,674)	(5,659)

4. INVESTMENT INCOME

	2020	2019
	£	£
Interest	13	46
Car park rent and Prince of Wales Courtyard	12,525	14,810
	12,538	14,856

5. MAINTENANCE OF SERVICES

	2020 £	2019 £
Remuneration of Organist	9,124	11,155
Candles, Wine and Wafers	1,159	1,546
Choir, Organ & Bells	230	4,630
Other Churches	5,070	3,454
	15,583	20,785

6. GENERAL PARISH EXPENSES

	2020 £	2019 £
Sundry expenditure	902	2,298
Clergy Leaving gifts and function	2,435	-
Singing Week	-	10,349
Printing and Stationery	533	1,006
Postage	344	253
Vicars PA	6,480	6,480
	10,694	20,386

7. MAINTENANCE OF CHURCHES

	2020 £	2019 £
Light and Heat	6,947	8,116
Insurance	3,483	3,389
General repairs	4,899	4,073
	15,329	15,578

8. MAINTENANCE OF OTHER PROPERTY

		2020 £	2019 £
Outgoings Vicarages:	St Mary's	2,363	2,794
	Holy Trinity	2,302	2,522
4 Holywell Close	Outgoings	4,005	6,581
	Loan interest	2,065	2,065
Outgoings Christchurch Hall		3,697	1,071
Car park and Prince of Wales Courtyard		438	628
Garden of Rest		70	622
		14,940	16,283

9. EXCEPTIONAL EXPENDITURE

	2020	2019
	£	£
North roof	13,034	-
North Walkway	174	15,191
Boilers	330	12,000
Boiler Tithe Barn	4,128	-
Christchurch repairs	-	11,311
	17,666	38,502

The North roof works were funded by insurance claims made in respect of storm damage suffered spring 2020.

10. MISSION PARISH

	2020	2019
	£	£
Holywell Community	1,887	5,430
Magazines, notices etc.	1,980	3,830
	3,867	9,260

11. FREEHOLD PROPERTIES

	Cost	Estimated Value	Total
	£	£	£
4 Holywell Close, Abergavenny	260,889	-	260,889
The Priory Meadow, Abergavenny	-	25,000	25,000
Tithe Barn	76,752	-	76,752
	337,641	25,000	362,641

12. LOANS

Due within one year

Included within amounts due within 1 year are parishioners loans of £5,500 (2019: £12,000) which are repayable upon demand.

Due after more than one year	**2020**	**2019**
	£	£
Loan re: Property Holywell Close	59,004	59,004
	59,004	59,004

The Loan for Holywell close property was partially repaid in a previous year from the proceeds of a legacy, and subsequently repaid in full in Spring 2021 from the proceeds of a legacy bequeathed in 2020.

13. Funds

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total £
Fund Balances at 31 December 2020 are represented by:			
Fixed assets	362,641	-	362,641
Current assets	229,792	-	229,792
Creditors:			
Amounts due within one year	(90,209)	-	(90,209)
Amounts due after one year	(59,004)	-	(59,004)
	443,220	-	443,220

Unrestricted funds includes funds received from a legacy, which have been designated by the trustees to repay the loan for the property at Holywell Close and all outstanding parishioners loans, with the balance held to fund major repair works undertaken in 2021.

14. Trustees

Mrs M Pratt, the spouse of one of the trustees, received remuneration as Vicars PA during the year of £6,480 (2019:£6,480).

15. Employees

The average number of persons employed by the PCC during the year was 3. (2019: 3).

16. Related parties

There were no disclosable related party transactions during the year (2019 -none).

PARISH OF ABERGAVENNY PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Independent Examiner's Report

Year ended 31 December 2020

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the Parish of Abergavenny Parochial Church Council
I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2020 which are set out on pages 2 to 9.

Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner:
The trustees of the Parish of AbergavennyParochial Church Council (the PCC) (trustees) are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed. The gross income in the PCC accounts exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of the ICAEW.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act); and
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report
My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the Parochial Church Council and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the Parochial Church Council concerning such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a "true and fair" view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent Examiner's Statement
In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect, the requirements:
   - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
   - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act

have not been met; or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

P. E. Lea FCA
Dorrell Oliver Limited
Linden House
Monk Street
Abergavenny
Monmouthshire
NP7 5NF

Date: 10-5-2021